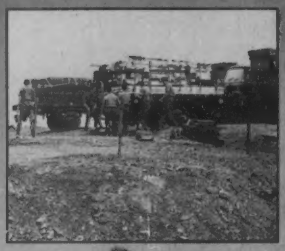
AN COSANTOIR

THE IRISH DEFENCE JOURNAL DECEMBER, 1979 30p



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Fior-Spioraid na Nodlag.
From An tOglach Christmas 1924

Cover

Lt. John Walsh, Mil. Col. participating in the National Recovery Championships at Farranfore, Co. Kerry. (Photo: Liam Mulcahy)

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our readers and advertisers.

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Let's get it all together at Quinnsworth

Christmas Message from the Minister for Defence, Mr. Robert Molloy, T.D.

O thárla an Nollaig agus deireadh na bliana buailte linn arís, tá an-áthas orm an deis seo a bheith agam buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le baill na bhFórsaí Cosanta as ucht a ndílseachta agus a ndúthrachta i mbun a gcuid oibre sa tír seo agus i dtíortha i gcéin.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to wish the officers and men of the Defence Forces at home and abroad a very happy Christmas and peace and prosperity in the New Year.

The heavy demands on the Defence Forces have continued unabated over the past year. Irish troops serving with UNIFIL have responded magnificently to the peace-keeping challenge in Southern Lebanon. In the face of much harassment and provocation they have consistently maintained the high standards of tact, discipline and personal conduct that have become the hallmarks of Irish troops serving with the United Nations. During my recent visit to Lebanon I was able to examine the situation at first hand and it was very gratifying to see the professional way our troops are coping in such a difficult mission.

I should also like to extend my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to the officers and men who are serving the cause of peace with UNTSO and UNFICYP.

The Forces at home have also faced arduous duties, particularly in their work in aid of the civil power and in patrolling our coastal waters. These duties often involve long periods of separation from home and family and the members of the Forces are to be commended for the loyal and energetic way they render such a valuable service to the community.

Christmas Message from the Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Carl O'Sullivan

As we approach the last Christmas of this decade it is my privilege, once again, to thank all ranks of the Defence Forces for their loyalty and devotion to duty during the past twelve months.

1979 will be forever remembered as the year of the Papal Visit and it is fitting at this time of the year to record with pride the great contribution members of the Defence Forces made to the success of Pope John Paul II's unique and historic visit to this country.

I would like especially to send greetings to the officers, NCO's and men who either through service overseas with United Nations Peacekeeping Forces or due to service demands here at home will be separated from their families during the Festive period. In this context I think particularly of the 46th Inf. Bn. (UNIFIL) and the excellent work they are doing to achieve peace in the Lebanon.

To all of them and to all their comrades at home and in particular their families, on behalf of the General Staff and myself I send my best wishes for the Christmas and the New Year.

Nollaig faoi shéan agus athbhliain faoi mhaise dibh go léir.

Guím beannacht speisialta ortha siúd atá ar dualgas sa bhaile nó i gcéin agus atá dá bharr sin scartha ón a gclanna i gcaitheamh na Féile Naofa seo. Go raibh Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise agus aithbhlian faoi shonas ag gach uile dhuine.

Bass SPORTS

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best in sport

THE GREAT WITHDRAWAL

John Buttimer

An armoured car company, the last British unit to be stationed in Dublin, crossed over the border into Northern Ireland around four o'clock on the afternoon of Sunday 17th December 1922.

I

MENTION of the word 'withdrawal' today is both emotive and evocative and while strategic withdrawal and tactical withdrawal are extensively studied by military students and historians the equally important political withdrawal seems to have been largely ignored. Perhaps the subject will also be studied by politicians and thus may be avoided some of the unhappy consequences of a hurried or insufficiently planned pull-out particularly by military or police forces.

It is proposed in this short article to study, within the limits of the information generally available, the military withdrawal by the British from the Irish Free State in 1922 and to point the way for deeper studies to determine to what extent the manner of withdrawal contributed to the Civil War which followed.

The Irish Command of the British Army, organised on the basis of a Special Army Order issued in 1905 and revised up to 1907, covered the whole country. The main body of the regular British Army in Ireland was tactically and strategically organised in one cavalry brigade, one whole infantry division and the greater part of another. It was a flexible organisation inasmuch as troop movements had little effect upon it. Both internal security and swift mobilisation for service outside were considered in selecting stations.

In 1914 the Irish Command (Headquarters: Parkgate, Dublin), consisted of the following Field Troops (Regulars):

(a) 3rd Cavalry Brigade (HQ Curragh) with three cavalry regiments.
(b) 5th Division (HQ Curragh) with three infantry brigades and a total of twelve battalions.
(c) 6th Division (HQ Cork) with two infantry brigades and a total of eight battalions.

There were also the divisional troops (artillery, engineers, signals), transport, medical, ordnance and veterinary.

The Coast Defences were organised in separate subordinate commands with Headquarters for the North Irish at Londonderry and for the South Irish at Queenstown (Cobh).

The two Districts which dealt with recruiting, training depots and the Special Reserve infantry battalions had Headquarters at Dublin and Cork.

Due to the usual fluctuations in units at home because of the intake of recruits and the outflow of drafts for abroad the strength of the Command in regular troops might be taken as something over twenty thousand.

The Irish Flag is hoisted over the Harbour Master's office Dunlaoire, 25 May 1922 (Pictures from the collection of the late Col. Niall McNeill in Army Archives).

II

The main purpose of the 1907 organisation was to provide an Expeditionary Force from within the United Kingdom totalling one Cavalry Division and six Infantry Divisions and when this force had moved to combat after absorbing its reservists the District organisation in Ireland with its mobilised Special Reserve units was to move into designated war stations to fill the vacuum. Broadly speaking that is what did happen during World War I except that new Infantry Divisions raised during 1914 (10th (Irish), 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster),) also required accommodation until they in turn moved from Ireland and later, of course, the Easter Rising of 1916 necessitated accommodation for about four infantry brigades from England.

III

When World War I ended it was intended after the demobilisation was completed to return to the pre-war organisation, possibly with some

Salute being fired at Dunlaoire May 1922. (Photo McNeill collection in Army Archives)

modifications in the light of experience, and this would entail the provision of some twenty to twenty-five thousand regular troops in Ireland. However, before this force could be settled into a secure and relaxed peace-time routine the political situation gave cause for anxiety. As the situation deteriorated the plans for a pre-war establishment went by the board and eventually by 11th July 1921 when a Truce was agreed the country probably held more regular military units than ever before in its history.

The Irish Command (HQ Parkgate, Dublin) held the following Regular Field Troops:

(a) 3rd Cavalry Brigade (HQ Curragh) with seven cavalry regiments.
(b) 15th Infantry Brigade (HQ Belfast) with seven infantry battalions.
(c) 6th Division (HQ Cork) with four Infantry Brigades and a total of twenty-eight battalions.
(e) Dublin District (HQ Dublin) with three Provisional Brigades and a total of eighteen battalions.

In addition there were, of course, the divisional troops (artillery, engineers, signals,) transport, medical, ordnance, infantry depots and coast defences.

In looking at this apparently powerful force it must be remembered that many of the infantry battalions were hardly above one third of their proper strength.

IV

Although difficult to prove or disprove it is probable that the Truce was of greater advantage to the freedom-fighters. Besides the obvious boost to morale it was a welcome breathing space, an opportunity to re-equip and recruit. It has been said that the number of recruits at this stage were amazing but how many were joining what they thought was the winning side will never be known. On the other hand it was a disturbing and to some a humiliating thing for the British Army, bad for morale, bad for nerves and bad for prestige. To add to this unhappy situation it was claimed that there were breaches of the Truce particularly after the Treaty of 6th December 1921 and when three British officers disappeared in County Cork. The soldiers probably did suffer a certain amount of taunts and insults and, of course, were irked by the restrictions on their activities.

Apparently the British Army, which now had many additional commitments abroad particularly on the Rhine and in Mesopotamia, was being pressured by the Geddes Committee on Expenditure to cut back to the tune of some millions. The possible release of a large number of regular troops from Ireland was a gift from the gods to the hard-pressed War Office and, in addition, there was the feeling in some influential quarters that if we are to get out we should get out fast.

V

The Provisional Government of the Irish Free State was set up on the 16th January 1922 and with little delay some British units were withdrawn from their normal stations though not all were removed from Ireland. It is difficult at this stage to ascertain what happened in a number of cases but it seems that generally speaking either the local Volunteer Commanding Officer presented himself and his men at the military barracks and the building and the furniture on charge were handed over to him by the outgoing unit commander or the British unit

simply vacated the post which in most but not in all cases was then promptly occupied by the local Volunteers.

It seems that the involvement of the Royal Air Force in Ireland was never large. In 1921 it was probably mainly concerned with army co-operation and consisted of No. 11 (Irish) Wing with Headquarters and one squadron at Baldonnel, one squadron at Fermoy and one flight each at Oranmore and Aldergrove. It is possible that its withdrawal had little effect on subsequent events.

The Royal Navy did not abandon its large shore establishment at Haulbowline until 1923 and in any event even then continued to provide surveillance around the coast, although on a reduced scale, right up to 1938 when the Treaty Ports of Cobh, Berehaven and Lough Swilly were handed over.

In the meantime efforts were being made by the Provisional Government to organise or rather to continue the machinery of administration which they had been at great pains to destroy some six months earlier. They were fortunate that most government departments continued under civil servants with British experience. In regard to both army and police however they ran into difficulties as obviously both the Irish regiments of the British Army and the Royal Irish Constabulary as organised were unacceptable to the majority in the South even if the members were willing to transfer to the new Government.

VI

All the local Volunteers were not rigidly under the control of the central Government at this stage. Because of the nature of the warfare which they had carried out for several years most directions from Headquarters had to allow for the maximum flexibility. This in turn was reflected in the semi-autonomous Active Service Units which had proved so effective and, it seems, so intolerant of bureaucracy. Having been so long on a loose rein, having the power of life and death and enjoying the homage of their neighbours many of the leaders would have to face the difficult transition to subordinate anonymity then and much later and some would resent and resist it. It was a common symptom of the aftermath of revolution down through the ages and it would continue for years intermittently.

It must have been obvious to the British early in February 1922 that the new Dominion of the Irish Free State was not going to be a peaceful and co-operative partner like her sisters in the Empire as had been hoped a few months before. Indeed there was the distinct possibility that a Republic might be declared in breach of the Treaty and reading the literature of that period there is no doubt that the British were considering what line of action to take in that eventuality. There was the shadow of that 'immediate and terrible war' and a mention that up to two hundred thousand troops might be needed for Ireland. It is true that the Treasury would have wailed and that recruitment on a large scale would have to be launched probably aimed at slightly older men with war experience. In view of the unemployment situation it would have been easy to get the numbers required and they might have provided a toughness and steadiness perhaps not found in abundance in the pre-Truce home service battalions with their large numbers of 'young' soldiers. It would have meant halting the evacuation, re-occupying the already vacated posts and creating new bases and camps for prisoners.

On the other hand there was the less costly alternative of simply enforcing a strict blockade on all Irish ports and sitting down to wait. What the American reaction to any of this would have been is hard to estimate. While the Irish-American vote had undoubtedly to be taken into consideration there were limits to its influence in Federal politics.

VII

Yet despite all this the withdrawals continued until the British Army in the twenty-six counties was confined to four main areas, Dublin, the Curragh, Cork and Limerick, plus the coast defence garrisons at Cobh, Berehaven and Lough Swilly which were to remain under the terms of the Treaty anyway.

There is evidence that as early as March 1922 the British became worried about their battalions still in Limerick when the situation there became explosive. Some officers from Dublin tried to occupy already vacated barracks and were warned off by the local anti-Treaty Volunteers. The British quickly withdrew their troops to safety to the great relief of all concerned but, strangely enough, they still left considerable garrisons in both the Curragh and Cork for another two months.

VIII

At the risk of starting a major controversy I very gingerly tender the suggestion that the regular Irish Army dates from the 1st February 1922 when the Headquarters Active Service Unit, Dublin Brigade, newly outfitted in green uniforms, took over Beggars Bush Barracks in Dublin to be used as Headquarters for the National Army under the Provisional Government.

While undoubtedly an attempt was made in the first months of 1922 to organise and recruit a permanent Irish Army it seems to have been a slow process. As against the twenty thousand allowed under the terms of the Treaty by April only something over three thousand had been enrolled from the ranks of the Volunteers. A number of factors may have contributed to this situation. Many Volunteers were unwilling to commit themselves to a life in the Army; some because of a dislike for regimentation and others because of responsibilities in civil life. There was also a suggestion that in view of the financial aspect about

four thousand Volunteers would suffice. Another factor which must be mentioned was the delicate balance between the two Irish political groupings and the possible reluctance of some leaders to pressure Volunteers to commit themselves as well as the further reluctance of many Volunteers to take sides.

IX

As someone has said, the situation in June 1922 was in the nature of a cauldron, simmering and bubbling, into which the more active of the anti-Treaty group threw volatile ingredients under the apprehensive noses of the remaining British military and civilian officials. Indeed there is solid ground for a belief that if the British could have been provoked into action both the Irish groups would have reunited and recommenced the guerilla war for which they were now better equipped with weapons obtained from the British forces.

The British on the other hand were much worse off than at the time of the Truce. The rump of the once huge Irish Command in the twenty-six counties which remained mainly in the Phoenix Park, Dublin area could possibly have provided around seven thousand infantry. There was also one armoured car company and perhaps the greater part of a field artillery brigade. In theory they could have been quickly reinforced from Northern Ireland and from Britain but unfortunately the heavy hand of economy had been at work and India and the Colonies had to be furnished with drafts. The Northern Government would probably have squealed if there was a drastic reduction in the garrison there and Britain would have to be largely denuded of troops if the force in Ireland was to be built up at once to what was now required to reassert the authority of the Crown there.

In addition the Royal Irish Constabulary had to all intents and purposes been disbanded although the Dublin Metropolitan Police continued to function. Both the military and police Intelligence departments had been run down and would have to be reorganised. The bulk of the military buildings had been evacuated or handed over to one Irish party or the other and even if the British Army moved to re-occupy them there was every chance that they would be burned out by retreating opponents. Furthermore a number of posts, vacant because of the lack of full-time Volunteers, had been looted by civilians.

X

As well as all this other strange things were happening. The steamer *Upnor* was engaged in transferring surplus arms from the south of Ireland to Britain. Shortly after leaving the Royal Navy station at Queenstown early in April 1922 and almost within sight of the outer forts the vessel was seized by anti-Treaty soldiers and brought into a small harbour nearby. In a swift, daring and well planned manoeuvre the arms were unloaded onto waiting motor cars and disappeared into the surrounding countryside. At the time and since then a number of disturbing questions have floated around the south. How was it that the movements of the *Upnor* were known even as far away as Cork City before the shipment took place? How was the boarding carried out unnoticed by naval vessels patrolling or moving in or out of the base and why did the Captain and crew of the *Upnor* allow the ship to be boarded in the first place?

Indeed, looking at the manner of withdrawal, the *Upnor* and other incidents, a cynic might be pardoned for thinking that the British were setting up a situation in which they could declare to the world the impossibility of self-government working in the twenty-six counties.

XI

At the time of the clear outbreak of civil war with the bombardment of the Four Courts apparently the British Army had one nominal infantry brigade distributed between Richmond and Island Bridge Barracks while another was based in Phoenix Park with a third in Royal Barracks. The artillery were stationed in Marlborough Barracks but it is not clear whether the armoured cars operated from different stations possibly including the Royal Hospital.

For another pulsating six months this force continued in its uneasy holding operation, trying to maintain a low profile while closely observing the chaos extending in all directions without showing smug satisfaction too openly until, with great relief, they were allowed to start the final evacuation on the 14th December 1922. The troops continued to withdraw without incident, indeed even with a certain show of goodwill, boarding steamers at North Wall over the next four days.

The armoured car company which provided mobile security for the operation did not head for the North until the last of the troops made ready to embark.

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Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson by Major-General C.E. Callwell. (Cassell, London, 1927).
Monthly Army Lists, March 1914 and August 1921. (H.M. Stationery Office, London).
An Cosantoir - various issues.

© John Buttimer.

Taking the Plunge:

Comdt. Art Magennis who retired from the Army in September, received at his presentation not alone a token from his fellow officers, but the Eastern Command Diver of the Year Award.

Art who completed a sub-aqua course in his final year with the Army, qualified as a Diver two star in August during the Defence Force Sub Aqua Training Camp at Lahinch.

This must indeed be an Irish record if not one for the **Guinness Book of Records.** Art can indeed be proud to have completed so demanding a course on the eve of his retirement, and joined his daughter Barbara who is a Marine Biologist. Best wishes Art from all your sub aqua friends in the Forces.

F. O'D.

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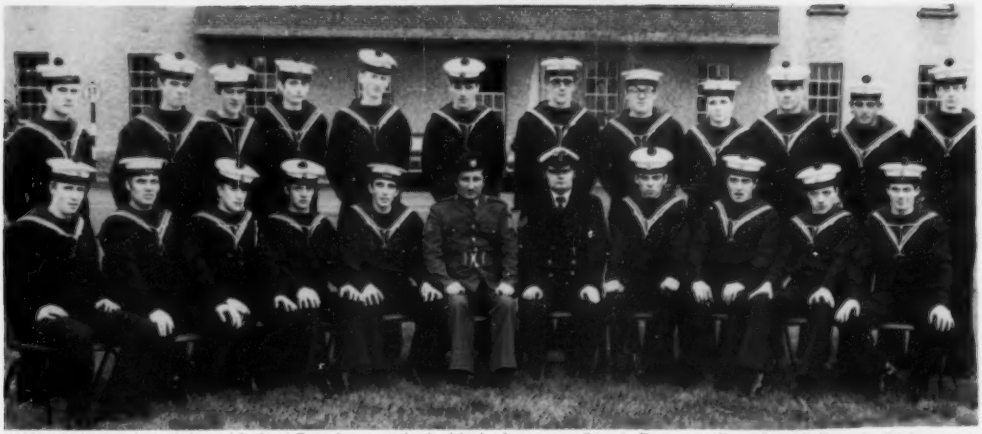
Eastern Command

All army final inter comd. Gaelic Final winners played at Baldonnel on 10th October.
Eastern Command beat Air Corps by 5-12 to 1-4. This was the highest winning margin recorded since the competition began. (Front L/R): Lt. T. Shaw, Capt. P. Burns, Capt. N. Farragher, Pte. L. Lynam, Capt. M. O'Connor, Capt. B. Dooley, Lt. M. Moloney. (Back): Lt. G. King, Pte. B. Higgins, Cpl. M.Pepper,Capt. G. Aherne,Capt. S. Cloonan, Lt. E. O'Hara,Capt. M. McGrath, Lt. J. Murphy, Capt. P. Herbert. (Air Corps photo)

Eastern Command team winners of Defence Forces Senior Cross Country Championships for 1979. *Back Row - L. to R:* Pte. B. Murray; Cpls. P. Markin; H. McClelland; J. Burgess; Pte. P. Smith; Cpl. A. Martin; Sgm. J. Rabbitte; Sgt. M. McCarthy. *Front Row:* Cpls. M. Gargan; J. McGlynn; Gnr. B. Keeney and Pte. G. Gavin.

Western Command



A Naval platoon in training with the 6 Bn. photographed with the Instructor Sgt. A. Byrne are *Front L. to R:* Recruits M. Kenny; J. Byrne, E. Calshaw; J. Cullen; G. Saunders; P.O. P. Hartley; Recs. D. Irwen M. Roche; D. O'Riordan and D. Cooney. *Back:* Recs. A. McCabe; C. Farrell; G. Stack; S. Boyle; T. Somers; K. Hogan; A. Magee; J. Moore; K. O'Neill; P. Carr; M. Madigan and J. Cuddihy. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

Recruit J. Tuohy, 'A' Coy. 6 Inf. Bn. taking part in a UN sketch. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

Mrs. B. Stapleton and Pte. B. Quinn at the Custume Bks. concert. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

W. Comd. Cross Country champion Lt. J. Carroll receiving his trophy from Col. D. Sweeney, Bde. OC. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan.)

Custume Bks. team winners of the W. Comd. cross country championships. L. to R. Front: Sgt. P. Dolan; Lt. J. Carroll; Cpl. M. Lynch. Back: Lt. C. Harvey; Rec. K. Hogan; Ptes. E. Lynch; W. Greene. (Photo: Cl. P. O'Callaghan.)

Curragh Command

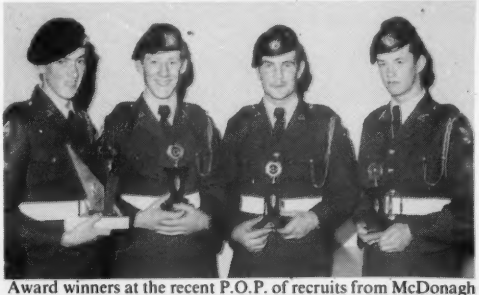
Front: John J. Chapman MPC (Retired after 26 years), Capt. C. Droney, Staff Officer R.S.M. B. Cronin (Retired after 41 years), C.S. J. Faughnan Mess President. *Back:* Cpl. T. Hipwell (Retd. after 25 years), Sgt. P. Martin, accepting on behalf of Sgt. P. Confrey (Retd. after 34 years), Sgt. J. Maguire, (Retd. after 23 years), Sgt. J. Browne Mess Sec. (Photo: O. McCrossan)

Winning team in the Command Fish Cookery competition was from Clarke Bks. L. to R: Pte. Colm Egan, Sgt. Patrick Duffin, Pte. Kevin Moore with Lt. Col. Kevin Scully, O.C. Clarke Bks. (Photo: O. McCrossan)

Present at the unveiling of the bronze plaque to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Cadet School were L. to R. 2/Lt. K. McGinley; Lt. Col. C. Cox, O.C. Cadet School; Comdt. H. Lalor; Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. C. O'Sullivan; Brig. Gen. D. Hurley, GOC Curragh Command; Col. T. Ryan, OC Military College; Brig. Gen. N. Callaghan and Col. H. Byrne. (Photo: O McCrossan.

"Join the Army and Go Places" - that certainly applies to the group in the photograph.
All are members of the 46 Infantry Battalion. The main body of which left Ireland on 7th November for the Lebanon to begin their six month period of duty.
Left to Right: Sergeant Major M. Hickey, Kildare; Cpl. V. Cross, Newbridge; Cpl. P. Tobin, Mountrath, Co. Laois; Pte. W. McEvoy, Curragh; Pte. G. Pearse, Naas; Cpl. C. Higgins, Naas; Pte. M. Moore, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. (Photo: O. McCrossan).

Brigadier-General Dermot Hurley, presenting the **Cosantoir** Trophy to Pte. S. Thompson at a Passing Out Parade of recruits from McDonagh Barracks. Sgt. John Kelly and Lt. Col. C. J. Cullen, O.C. McDonagh Barracks also included. (Photo: O. McCrossan)



Award winners at the recent P.O.P. of recruits from McDonagh Barracks. L. to R: Pte. Paul Fagan (Best Soldier); Pte. Noel McCarthy (Best Shot Mag Machine Gun); Pte. Tom Keogh (Best Kit) and Pte. Gerard Shiggins (Best Shot Rifle). (Photo: O. McCrossan)

Air Corps

Having received their wings at Baldonnel prizewinners 2/Lt. K. Barry (right) and 2/Lt. J. Killoch with the Asst. Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. W. Callaghan and OC Air Corps Col. J. O'Connor. (Air Corps photo)

Retired after 35 years in the Signal Corps C/S M. Hamill receives a presentation from Comdt. P. McNally OC Air Sigs. (Air Corps photo)

Sgmn. James Fylan Air Sqn. Sigs. who recently gained his Club Divers Certificate. (Air Corps photo)

Naval Service

Recruits who recently passed out at the Naval Base Haulbowline being inspected by Lt. Cdr. W. R. Murphy, NS. *From left:* Recruits E. Barr; M. Buckley; G. Larkin; M. Askey; C. Byrne; K. Varden; J. O'Keefe; B. Mahony; B. Flanagan. Training Officers Capt. R. Ryan and Sgt. P. Shinkwin on left. (NS photo)

NS Rugby team who defeated E. Comd. by 11 pts. to 9 in the Defence Forces Championships are *Front Row - L. to R:* PO/WR E. McCarthy; Rec. J. Bowden; CPO J. Murphy; Lt. E. P. Ryan (Captain); Cadet N. Corbett; Lt. V. Harris; L/Mech. G. Duffy; L/Stw. M. Stapleton. *Back Row:* Cadets H. Gallagher; G. mcLoughlin; L/Sea P. Nolan; Cadet G. Curley; A/Sea R. Frazier; L/WR P. McGee; L/RRM J. Scallan and L/Era F. O'Keefe. (NS photo)

BALLINCOLLIG:

It is intended to publish the History of Murphy Barrack, Ballincollig. Readers who are in possession of material or old photographs suitable for inclusion are requested to send these to:-

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Adjutant,
1st F. A. Regiment,
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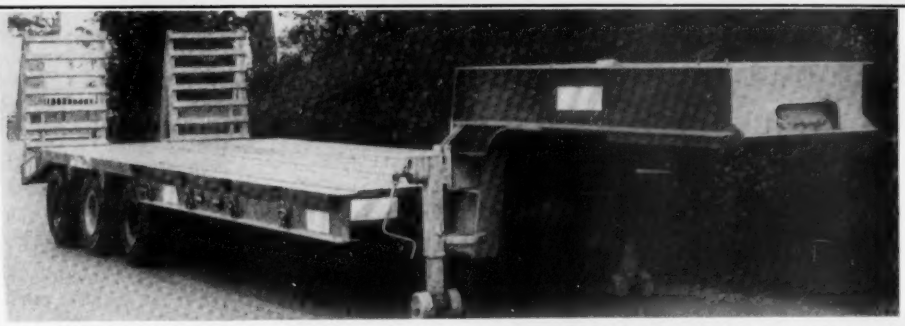

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THE NUCLEAR SHELL

Lt. J. M. Scannell
21 Inf. Bn.

THE nuclear shell sounds like something from the pages of Science Fiction, but is one of the rare cases where fact is indeed stranger than fiction since this weapon does exist today. It is simply a standard heavy artillery shell which has, in place of the normal high explosive payload carried, an atomic warhead.

Scientists had been working on various ways to reduce the size of atomic devices and, by the early 1950's, American scientists managed to produce the world's first nuclear shell. Produced in 280mm calibre, it was test fired on May 5th 1953 on the Nevada test range at Frenchman's Flat from a special motorised gun which weighed 42 tons. So successful, was the first test that the American Army produced more of the field guns and the nuclear shells, and the gun was made the main American delivery system for a nuclear device on the battlefield.

However, there were problems. The shell had only a maximum range of 20 miles, and the gun was so large that it was not easy for it to be hidden near the battlefield. So, not surprisingly, as various rocket systems were developed in the 1960's which had ranges of hundreds of miles, against the shell's 20, the idea of nuclear artillery was shelved and the Americans placed their faith in the various rocket systems for nuclear warhead delivery.

Again, behind the scenes, the scientists were busy and managed to produce the nuclear shell in the 155mm calibre format and today stockpiles of these shells are held by N.A.T.O. ready for use should Europe be invaded. However, control of the nuclear warheads is exercised by the Americans who would release them in a future war situation if a decision to use them was taken.

Since the flight characteristics of the nuclear shell is different to that of the normal high explosive counterpart each nuclear shell comes with a set of special shells which weigh the same as the nuclear shell but contain a special marker dye in place of the atomic warhead.

If deployed in a future conflict on the battlefield, the firing sequence would be as follows. Once the decision to use a nuclear shell had been taken the shell, plus the marker shells, would be brought to the gun or guns selected to fire. Once the necessary ranging calculations are completed the settings would be given to the crew and then a marker shell would be loaded. This would then be fired and a forward observer would report on the fall of shot. This would be seen as a bright flash of smoke over the enemy position, and the observer would report as to the location of the smoke to the gun crew. If the marker shell exploded on target, the nuclear shell would be loaded and fired using the same settings as used with the marker shell.

If the marker shell exploded off target, calculations can be re-done and a second, and a third marker shell if necessary can be fired to check the accuracy of the settings before the nuclear shell can be fired.

Critics of the nuclear shell maintain that the marker shell exploding over or near the enemy's position gives warning that a nuclear shell is about to be fired and that the enemy can then take counter measures. The enswer to this criticism is that if the enemy is advancing over open ground then, in the minute that would elapse between the marker exploding overhead and the arrival of the nuclear shell, the enemy would have little time to take proper counter measures.

While the nuclear shell means that an atomic device can be used on the battle field with relative ease, the problem still remains that it is an atomic device and that when exploded will cause radiation to fall out over a wide area, and this will render a portion of the battlefield unusable to both attacker and defender, and will force both sides to use decontamination measures, if they intend operating in or around the contaminated areas.

A new development which has more sinister applications is the amount of research which was put into the Neutron Bomb, and it can be safely assumed that out of this research will emerge the Neutron Shell which, if it does not already exist, will exist in the near future.

Whereas an atomic device when exploded causes great destruction as well as the contamination, the Neutron Bomb has been developed to release vast amount of lethal radiation which kills all living matter over a large area and causes little or no damage. If exploded in a town, only one or two buildings may show obvious signs of damage, but living matter up to 2 miles from the blast centre will be dead. Used in a shell format on the battlefield, it would act like a death ray since if exploded in the midst of advancing troops it would kill them, yet leave their transport and weapons intact. These, if decontaminated by the users of the neutron shell, could be used against their attackers.

While this may all sound stranger than fiction, the fact remains that there is in Europe a large stockpile of nuclear shells under the control of both N.A.T.O. and the Eastern Bloc ready for use in a conflict which the world hopes will never happen. While information on Eastern Bloc nuclear shells is largely unknown, so seriously do they take the threat of nuclear shells that each army formation has units trained in nuclear decontamination.

Sadly, while N.A.T.O. has stockpiles of nuclear shells, the matter of battlefield decontamination has not been investigated properly and the only experts in this area are the Americans who comprise part of N.A.T.O. Hopefully other countries in N.A.T.O. will remedy this vital omission before it is too late.

YOU YOUNG FELLAS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HARDSHIP!

Capt. Cathal Loftus

IF you ever have it in mind to exercise your right to complain about the food please pause to reflect on the bad old days.

Most barracks in Ireland contain evidence of the food set-up in the last century. This evidence consists of the buildings (and some fittings in them) which served as bread stores, meat stores and cook houses. The cookhouses have huge cauldrons which have fireboxes underneath, the mealstores have many hooks from the rafters, the breadstores often have lowered ventilators instead of windows. And these amenities were all that were needed to cater for the troops. For it was fiendishly simple.

The soldiers ration was fixed in 1813 at one pound of bread and three-quarters of a pound of meat per man per day. Nothing else. You got bread in the morning; meat, boiled in that cauldron, at twelve o'clock; and at four o'clock you eat any bread you had left from the morning. The pangs of hunger were kept away then by beer, strong tobacco and sleep until morning.

Of course there were efforts made to improve on that and many units had various local arrangements whereby everyone subscribed a little money and extras were available. Tea and potatoes were fairly common: the potatoes were cooked with the meat for dinner and the tea was made (to have with the bread) using the same cauldron. It was usually greasy and often was stewed for an hour. The cooks were vicious, and were generally chosen for their unsoldierly like appearance, military incompetence and insanitary habits.

Over the years kind people made efforts to improve matters officially but arguments against doing so were farily strong. For instance, at a time when most people had meat once a week soldiers had meat every day! But the kind people made some headway.

By 1857 there was an allowance of 3½d per man per day to buy vegetables, spices and condiments. This was more or less a regularisation of the unofficial voluntary subscription system and like that system, some units made it work, others failed to.

Around this time modern cooking facilities were installed in many barracks and in 1870 a School of Cooking was opened to train cooks. Gradually things improved and in 1889 a special enquiry into army messing was pleased to discover that the Royal Irish Rifles supplemented the meat, bread, and potatoes with coffee, tea, sugar, cheese, butter, jam, marmalade, golden syrup, brawn, corned beef, vegetables, onions, salt, pepper, mustard, herrings, split peas, lentils, barley, curries, flour, celery, milk, oatmeal, bacon and eggs!

This unit was very proud of its reputation at a time when the official recruiting pamphlet entitled **LIFE IN THE RANKS OF THE ENGLISH ARMY** remarked that men were free to 'buy some butter, cheese, or bacon, to help down the dry bread at breakfast and tea'! The Royal Irish Rifles claimed it was the only regiment serving anything near decent meals but this was disputed by many other regiments.

Whether or not the RIR claim was true is not important: what is important is that so many other regiments contested the claim. In other words, units prided themselves in the standard of their catering. That was progress.

Units still take pride in their catering and that is why when an orderly officer asks 'Is the food okay?'

(Continued on page 377)

Sanguinary affair at the Curragh

The Bloods *received their annual transfusion at the Curragh on Saturday, 17th November, when the now traditional rubrics were observed.*

Golf in the afternoon was followed by Mass at 18.00, when those who had passed on during the year were remembered - Lt. Col. Billy Kelly, C.O. in 1955, Capt. Brendan Mitchell, C/S Tom ('Pop') hayes, and Pte. Sheridan.

At the AGM, Lt. Col. Mick Higgins, long since elected President for life, insisted upon being properly relieved of his duties, and his proposition of Dr. Danny MacAulay as successor was seconded by Col. F. E. Lee and received with acclamation. At the same time the Constitution was altered to make the President's term of office three years, and Mick Higgins was elected to the new honour of Patron of the Association.

Sixty **Bloods** *- ancient and modern - attended the subsequent banquet, which was voted excellent by all participants. The Modern side was very well represented by 17 serving Officers of the Unit, headed by the C.O., Lt. Col. Jim Parker. Despite the number of brass hats which the 3rd regularly donates to the Army, the only ex-C.O. amongst them was Col. P. T. P. Quinlan, Retd. The usual toasts were honoured and the usual speeches made, including a very witty one by the GOC Curragh Command, Brig.-Gen. Dermot Hurley, who is of course a loyal member of the Association. Regrets for non-attendance were received from fraternal delegates from the First Battalion Officers' Association.*

There was the usual gathering afterwards at the Battalion Mess where the usual reminiscences were exchanged, and the new mosaic work in the hall and lobby, presented by the Association, was much admired. At the dinner the honour of proposing the toast of the Battalion was this year accorded to Capt. Derek Jones, Retd. So far as is known everyone got home safely - at least no intelligence to the contrary has come to hand.

This particular outfit, gang, coven or what-you-will appears to go from strength to strength; Long may it continue. *H.T.*

4th POTENTIAL OFFICER COURSE — A CONCISE HISTORY

* Lt. P. A. Butler
Lt. P. J. Harris

THE object of the 4th Potential Officer Course was to train selected NCOs to the standard required to take their place as Commissioned Officers.

To accommodate such an aim, and because students were drawn from all the arms of the Defence Forces, the syllabus was designed to give the potential officer a broad and balanced military education with an administrative emphasis. The main subjects covered were: Weapon Training, General Studies, Command and Staff, Tactical Operations, Internal Security, Administration and Quartermastering, Communications and Character Development, Leadership. All Arms and Catering Management.

The course at the Infantry School covered a 50 week period which began in November 1978 with a refresher course on weapon training, map reading, signal training and first aid. It was, in effect, a re-learning of the basic skills of soldiering and many of us had to dig deeply into our manuals and our stamina to re-educate minds and bodies to the mental and physical co-ordination which the modern-day soldier must possess. By the Christmas Holiday our course was well under-way.

Now that we were all on the College 'Wavelength' we settled into the New Year. Time was spent at the School of Administration. For many students it was their first taste of A & Q work and their initiation into the world of logistics would have been far more difficult had it not been for the presence of no less than six quartermaster sergeants and four senior staff NCOs from Army Headquarters: they were of great assistance in our post-duty hour studies.

At the end of March we returned to the College to be met by an avalanche of paper. Command and staff work and several General Study projects made up the bulk of the programme; the midnight oil burned long and late! This was by far the most mentally demanding part of the course, and we owe a lot to our patient instructors who nudged, prompted and gave us what we required to gain the high standard in order to see us through.

The coming of summer saw us receiving a sound grounding in the basics of Tactical Operations. Firstly in the lecture halls on cloth models, and then out and about in attempting to solve the mysteries of the "TEWT". The many heated debates engendered by this form of exercise proved how invigorating a subject it could be. But, whilst the "TEWT" was an ideal introduction to "Tac Ops" - there is no substitute for the 'real' thing (or as near to it as possible) and so - to the 'Battle Camp' in the Glen of Imaal.

There the experts showed their paces and the 'Old Infantry Sweats' came into their own. Knowing grins and occasional pained expressions could be seen flitting across their faces at the misfortune of some less experienced 'Tech-Type' entangling himself in the local agricultural boundaries, or submerging in a stinking boghole. In this period of training mention must be given to the 54th and 55th Cadet Classes who teamed up with the 4th Potential Class in making the Tactical schemes relative and worthwhile.

After these hectic weeks in the Glen, many of us thought that the 'jizz' would go out of the course - but this certainly was not the case. The programme proved to be as full, varied and demanding as ever. Internal security operations, the speciality of one particular DS, kept our enthusiasm at a high pitch. The theoretical classroom work complimented the practical training in both the Glen of Imaal and Curragh area.

From July we began a series of visits to the various schools and depots of the different corps and arms of the Service. These visits gave us an insight into the work they carried out, and the manner in which they assisted the primary arm.

Our final outside visit, was to the Army School of Catering at McKee Barracks, Dublin. Here any loss of weight due to tactical training was reversed, and we came away with an abundance of knowledge, recipes, calories and a great respect for the dedication and skill of the instructors and staff. They demonstrated that Cooking and Catering generally in the Defence Forces can be a most inviting and rewarding facet of army life.

The widely differing subjects studied offered us the greatest challenge, both in individual and syndicate effort, and brought home to us just how much we did not know, and what is required of the modern military officer is he is to maintain a broad knowledge of the military art and stay abreast of military developments.

Any programme of training is only as good as the instructors and in our case we had some of the most dedicated and truly professional instructors. To them we owe a debt of thanks and, in the years ahead, we will reap the benefit of their labours.

(Continued from page 376)

it is important to give a useful answer. But before you do, think back to the bread and meat and sweet damn all else . . . aren't you delighted to be a soldier in today's army?!!

* Lt. Butler was formerly RSM in 29 Infantry Battalion, Coothill and Lt. Harris was a Sergeant in 3 Grn. AOC, Collins Barracks, Cork.

ATHLETICS

WE start with news that three Defence Force athletes have been selected on the Cross Country panels for the World Championships in Paris on 16th March next. They are Gnr. Brendan Downey, Curragh, Cpl. Jimmy McGlynn, East and Apprentice John Gerrity, Army Apprentice School, and this is a further indication of the status of athletes in the Defence Forces. I'm sure that every one involved in sport in the Army, Navy and Air Corps will watch the progress of these athletes over the next few months with great interest.

There have been several good performances in championships and open competitions during the last month or so, with Brendan Downey running out a very impressive winner of an open cross-country race in Tipperary recently. Cpl. Paddy Murphy finished fourth in the Frank Duffy memorial 10 mile in the Phoenix Park. Signalman John Rabbitte who won an open cross-country race in Longford and finished fifth in the Dublin novice championships.

There were, of course, two stirring performances during the summer which were omitted by accident from our review of the year so far, in the last issue of the *Cosantoir*. I refer, of course, to Pte. Colm Brennan who won the B.L.E. National Junior Long Jump title and to the all rounder Pte. Sean Carlin (24th Bn.) who rounded off a great season by finishing fourth in the National Decathalon Championships.

The cross country season is now in full swing and the Eastern Command is in the midst of a programme which is aimed at retaining the Defence Forces novice and senior cross-country titles in that Command.

Since the beginning of October they have held their four x one mile relay - four rounds of their cross-country league as well as their notice championships and have attracted fields of over 80 athletes for most of these races. So, with their inter-Barrack, Intermediate and Senior races yet to come, one feels that their strength in depth will see them through in the All Army.

Four x one mile Relay - RESULTS:

1st 27th Bn. (Pte Wherrity, Sgt. Hartigan, Sgt. McCarthy, Pte. Murray)
2nd AHQ Sigs. Time: 20 mins 38 secs.

Eastern Command CC League
Individual Results

1.	Cpl. P. Martin	AHQ Sigs.
2.	Capt. D. Reidy	CT Depot
3.	Pte. B. Murray	27th Bn.
4.	Pte. J. Wherrity	27th Bn.

Team Results (12 to run 8 to count)

1.	27th Bn.	40 points
2.	AHQ Sigs.	32 points
3.	Depot Ord.	20 points

Sgt. Mick McCarthy was winner of the novice championships 17th Bn., with Sgm. 'Tommo' Williams in third place. The 27th Bn. captured the team prize from Depot Ord. with AHQ Sigs in 3rd.

'Discus'

LETTER

"Copper Beech",
12 Mahon Avenue,
Belvedere Lawn,
Douglas Road,
Cork.

The Editor,
An Cosantóir.

A Chara,

I was delighted to see the photo of the Guard of Honour of the 31st International Eucharistic Congress — Dublin, 1932 — in the October issue of *An Cosantóir*. I was a member of that Guard and have a large copy of the photo in my possession since 1932.

I was sorry to read that most of the Officers are dead, but I feel that some at least may be in the land of the living, like myself — and it would be a wonderful occasion if those could be got together for a reunion sometime. I imagine Pensions, Dept. of Defence, could supply the names of the survivors of the Guard.

Mise le meas,

Leo M. Brennan, Comdt. (Retd.)

NATO - Thirty Years On!

It's hard to remember at times that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is now into its third decade of existence. It doesn't seem all that long since we first got "NATO's Fifteen Nations" as an exchange journal for "An Cosantoir", but now comes a bumper edition to mark the 1949-1979 years.

There are the inevitable greetings and messages from Defence Ministers, representatives of various armies and some of the NATO General Staff. The individual countries that make up the alliance each get an item on their armed forces, capabilities, and general role in the whole set up. Naturally, a great deal of this is the kind of "waffle" customary on such occasions, but the overall impression is of a collection of nations and peoples varied in language and cultures, with widely divergent memories and outlooks of their historic pasts, nonetheless determined to present a reasonably united front in the face of a common threat.

It's no secret that the member states of NATO have nearly all, at one time or another in the past three decades, blown "hot and cold" over the alliance. The attitude of the French didn't help; the British and Germans had to overcome a great deal of mutual distrust, and there were current running sores of national conflict, such as Greece and Turkey. In spite of it all, NATO is still to the good, and likely to last for quite a while longer.

The magazine "NATO's Fifteen Nations" has always distinguished itself for very high standards of design, layout and printing. Needless to say this special edition is excellently turned out. It's a pleasure to say "Happy 30th Birthday" and to wish it lots of luck in the years ahead. One final, and intriguing thought - the second half of this double issue features the Air Forces of NATO, each designated by its appropriate wing markings. How the devil did our Air Corps get in amongst that lot ?

M. B.

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CLUBS, REUNIONS — AND ALL THAT

Lt. Col. J. P. Duggan (Retd.)

It would take a Charles Lamb to do justice to the sometimes sad strands threaded through aspects of above theme: tempus fugit; the passage, the ravages of time. But circumstances, shared experiences often forge an esprit and the flame refused to lie down and go out: it demands to be housed in some sort of sanctuary lamp. Clubs can serve such a purpose; reunions too.

The Emergency period (1939-'45) forged many bonds of comradeship. Many Clubs were founded to keep the links. O.N.E. (the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen) was founded. How do they stand today? Did O.N.E. prosper as well as it might? If not why not?

Overseas service was another great occasion for fashioning the binding chains of comradeship. But there's magic in a numeral as 'the Bloods', for instance, well know. And many served in several different units designated merely in the cold arithmetic of rotation. These rotating numbers are said to lack the mystique generated by say "The First", or the "Thirty First". No doubt you have your own selection.

The 10 Uisneach Infantry Battalion had a most successful reunion in Templemore. The 18th of course have probably the most endurance. The 11th (Dublin) Infantry Battalion parade every Palm Sunday in Dublin Castle and remember old comrades from Knockdrin. Commandant Horgan could tell us perhaps how fares the 1916-21 Club. The Artillery Club still meets: its numbers may be small but its spirit is great; the limbers go rolling along.

But as time goes by assembling can be a problem: the time and space factor can be an obstacle; a bus is hard enough to organise. The few jars can be a problem too; but shure it always was except that in youth the buffer and recuperation system ensured instant recovery. Anyway the 'Rounds system' is on the way out.

These are only random thoughts; to call them 'thoughts' is inflationary. But you know what I'm trying to get at the Officers Club never really took off. Or did it? Was premises the root of the problem? The McKee Bks., Officers Club seems to be flourishing, there's a throb of life about it.

The Cavalry Club, the S & T Club, and the Signals Club touched the heights. Are you a member of an Army Club? Do you go to a Reunion? What do you think? I don't know meself.

Good luck who ! Or as Myles na gCopaleen used to say: Heres me bus. That shows our vantage! And thats a problem too for clubs. How do the younger generations fit in? How is continuity maintained? How is recruiting kept up? And so on.

ARMY GYMNAST

Sgt. Christy Ennis with two of his pupils, Elizabeth Goff and Rachel Spiteri. (Photo: Jim Yorke)

With nineteen years of Army service Sgt. Christy Ennis, Curragh Camp is one of the best known names in the country for his involvement in gymnastics and sports acrobatics.

Christy was always an ardent sportsman, competing in cycling, cross-country, life-saving, badminton and boxing, when he was a member of St. Barbara's Boxing Club, Kildare, the Kilcullen Boxing Club.

Not by any standards could one describe Christy as an early convert to gymnastics; by becoming involved in the sport at the age of twenty-eight he could well be described as a latecomer!

In recent years he has devoted the greater part of his energies to the promotion of sports acrobatics. He has taken courses in Germany, Bulgaria and Russia. Sports acrobatics is a relatively new sport here and it involves working in groups and pairs with no apparatus.

On a course in Germany last March Christy qualified as an international coach. During this course Christy was greatly encouraged when he realised that the methods he had been using and teaching all along were the same as those used in the countries which led the field in these sports. He thinks that the Army can play its role in encouraging the sport and by using competent and first class international coaches when teaching the sport to those in the Army.

Ten years ago with the encouragement of Col. H. McDwyer he was instrumental in forming the Curragh Gymnastics Club, now one of the leading clubs in the country.

Though he himself retired from competitive sport after winning the All-Ireland gymnastics title from 1972-75, the Ennis tradition is still carried on by his five children.

John Whelan

SPORT PARACHUTING

The Army's Chief Parachute Instructor, Lt. John Walshe, 4 Inf. Bn., is featured on this months cover competing at the National Accuracy Championships organized by the Irish Sport Parachute Association recently at Farranfore, Co. Kerry.

With the sea nearby, his sense of accuracy was in high demand when he dispatched trusting student jumpers at Gormanston at An Army Sport Parachuting Course, in September.

Organised under the aegis of the Director of Training, the two week course consolidated the progression of Sport Parachuting in the Army over a number of years to a degree where regular formal training is a reality. The fortnight at Gormanston was a milestone in this progression and demonstrated that the Army now had indeed the capacity in expertise, equipment and aircraft to formally develop and expand in what is traditionally a military skill. Most of the twenty students, who represented all ranks and all commands, had some parachuting experience acquired through previous Army jumping or through one of the clubs associated to the Irish Sport Parachuting Association. Following rigorous ground preparation, mixed with sessions of arduous PT, static line jumping began on the third day. The course was dogged with bad weather and students got to know the intense strain of waiting for cloud to lift or wind to abate.

Initially the Air Corps greeted this band of non-drinking fanatics, who preached a doctrine of jumping from serviceable aircraft, with something less than wry amusement. As the fortnight

Awaiting their turn (Left) Sgt. P. Nolan 1st Armed. Sqn. Sgt. J. Hanly Air Corps. Cpl. P. Nugent Depot MPC keeps a close eye on the static line exit of Cpl. S. Devlin CT Depot, East. (above).

progressed any apprehension was bonded into mutual professional respect, to a stage where some pilots began babbling about being volunteers for the next course . . .?

Aircraft used were Cessna Reims Rocket modified for jumping. Normally this aircraft would lift two students and an instructor. The modifications incorporate many excellent features which make the aircraft very safe for both jumpers and pilot.

The 'STRATO-CLOUD' tricoloured parachute demonstration by Lt. Walshe on the cover is Army property and is representative of the stock of high class equipment now available to the Army Parachutist. The parachutists on the left demonstrate "Sentinal" automatic opening devices attached to their reserve packs. This is a safety aid designed to open the reserve parachute automatically at 1000 feet if for any reason the parachutist is incapacitated.

D. O'L.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF MODERN WAR. Roger Parkinson. Paladin Granada. £2.75

This is the paperback of a most useful work, first published in 1977. It covers the period from 1793-1975, dealing with wars, personalities, equipment and concepts.

Ireland is allotted two pages, commencing with 'The League of United Irishmen being organised in 1791 to fight for Irish Independence from the British Government . . .' and ending with 'by early 1975 British troop strength in Northern Ireland comprised about 14,000 men. The number of military and civilian deaths had risen above 1,000.'

On tank warfare it is stated that 'Richard Edgeworth invented the caterpillar track as early as 1770.' Was this the father of Maria? 'The first Royal Navy submarine was launched in 1902, developed by John P. Holland, a British emigrant to America.' He, in fact, was from Co. Clare, and educated by the Christian Brothers. But generally this is a most fine publication, and every military library should have a copy.

H. N.

Recently commissioned 2/Lts. J. Eaton, B. Synott, K. Keating with on the left Lt. P. Kilgannon and Sub/Lt. J. Kearney, N.S. The entire group were apprentices in the SPA Naas. (Air Corps photo).

CHRISTMAS MORNING

When the first rays of light through the curtains do sneak
The child from his covers his nose will peak
For to rise from his bed while Santy is there
Would ensure 'neath the tree is gloomy and bare
But when minutes drag in and no sound it is heard
He'll creep from his bedroom and steal down the stair
When he reaches the door he'll stop and he'll listen
And if you looked in his eyes you'll see that they glisten
And as he opens the door he'll be filled full of joy
And thats Christmas Moring for this little boy.

A/M. B.F.

OFFICERS PROMOTIONS - NOVEMBER

Name	To	From	To
Ryan, T.	Lt. Col.	Ops. CSs Branch	Ops. Staff, C. Comd.
O'Connor, J.	Brig-Gen.	OC Air Corps	Retains
Kavanagh, P.	Commodore	CONS	Retains
Barrett, James A.	Lt. Col.	Chief Instructor Army Apprentice School	Command Ordnance Officer Western Command
Madden, Donal L.	Lt. Col.	OC 3 Maint. Engrs.	OIC Maint. M Constr. Engrs
Ward, Dennis L.	Comdt.	3 Grn. Ord. Coy.	OIC Radiac Workshops: Depot Ordnance

N.C.O.'s PROMOTIONS - NOVEMBER

Rank	Name	Unit	To
CQMS	McCann, D.	No. 3 Hosp. Coy.	Coy-Sgt.
Sgt.	Clancy, P.	GT Depot, C. Comd.	CQMS
CQMS	Houlihan, P. J.	HQ FCA E. Comd.	Coy-Sgt.
Sgt.	Kent, P.	HQ S Comd.	Coy-Sgt.

WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

SPIKED AGAIN

Hibernia that weekly watchdog has an article by one Barry Collins under the arresting headline "AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR CORK'S ALCATRAZ". Strangely enough the article is about the possibility of a transfer of the Naval Base from Haulbowline to Spike Island. Do not be put off you sailors or airmen when the author refers several times to the NAVAL CORPS, its not an amalgamation he has in mind. Much of the article is taken up with the Detention centre on Spike Island. "Although not harsh, life in the detention centre is monotonous and boring. The prisoners are obliged to do 'dirty duties', such as tilling garden plots, felling trees and marching up and down the square. The emphasis is on instilling into the men a sense of discipline." It sounds almost like the Army. Apropos the Naval Service move to Spike the author claims "the cost will be massive".

"Unlike Haulbowline, Spike Island is surrounded by mud banks that are exposed at low tide, so that dredging this area would be a multi-million pound project. The alternative is to build a long jetty out into the channel."

"A more logical use of resources would appear to be to build smaller naval depots at key points on the Eastern and Western seaboards and to have a nucleus of the service at Haulbowline."

Whatever happens concludes Barry Collins sadly "it will make no difference to the lives of the lonely prisoners square-bashing in the detention centre under the watchful gaze of serious-minded officers, who are trying to encourage in them a respect for the military way of doing things".

Accompanying the article is a map which looks remarkable familiar. Where did we see it before?

GO WEST YOUNG MAN

Hot sweet tea had to be administered in copious quantities to chocked GHQ staff officers when they read the headline in the *Irish Press.*

"DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE FOR GALWAY"

When they recovered sufficiently to read the small print the truth in the news was not as searbh as it seemed.

"A large section of the Department of Defence is to be transferred to Galway. The move will involve almost 200 civil servants, the Minister for Defence, Mr. Molloy, revealed yesterday.

The Department is to set up in a big new £1 million headquarters in the Renmore suburb of the city under a decision made by the Cabinet recently on Mr. Molloy's proposals."

Discussions got under way with top civil servants on the move to Galway, and if transfers cannot be agreed with some people, it is expected that vacancies will be filled from other Departments.

Lt. Col. J. Kissane, OC 46 Bn. on left with Comdts. J. Martin, and K. Doyle and two other visitors to the Bn. area. Below: This sign speaks for itself. It is on the wall of a house in Tibnin. (Photos: Sgt. J. Broderick)

"The Defence transfer to Galway will involve about 160 to 180 people out of a total Department establishment of about 650, and all the transfers will be on a voluntary basis. In fact, about 750 people have applied for transfers in the civil service and are interested in Galway," he said.

"He stressed that the Minister's office and secretariat would remain in Dublin because it needed to be near Leinster House and other Government offices, but the transfer was a real contribution to decentralisation."

"No timescale on the move has yet been worked out, but it is understood that it will be given priority and the appointment of structural engineering consultants and the selection of a site near Renmore Barracks are indications of this."

Join the Civil Service and Go Places.

HOME ON THE RANGE

Did you see this advertisement? Maybe you should dig out your All Army badge. Zeroing will disqualify.

"Department of Defence
RANGES LIAISON OFFICER
Department of Defence, Dublin.

Salary scale - £5,700 - £5,850 - £6,000 - £6,150 - £6,300.

The appointee will be required to visit military ranges throughout the country and to maintain liaison with civilian organisations, societies, groups, members of the public, etc., whose activities may be affected by military use of the ranges.

Qualifications:

Candidates must -

(1) have a good standard of general education,
(2) have a background of experience appropriate to the duties of the post, and
(3) possess the requisite knowledge and ability and be suitable to enter on the discharge of the duties of the post.

Applications should be sent immediately giving details of all previous employment and of any appropriate background experience to:

The Secretary,
Department of Defence (R3B),
Parkgate, Dublin 8.

The latest date for applications will be 11th December, 1979."

UNHAPPY DAYS

Terry O'Sullivan had memories of the Curragh too in his column and confessed that he hated every blade of grass and every sheep in the place. This is what he wrote -

"That I was a very bad soldier in the last war . . . I mean Emergency . . . is obvious from the number of postings that I collected. Born in McKee Barracks as an anti-aircraft gunner, the file then moves to Coast Defence artillery at Lough Swilly, thence back to McKee Barracks, thence to the General Staff (Oh my God, I am heartily sorry . . .) and thence to the 24th Battalion, then drifting to a boring end in the Curragh.

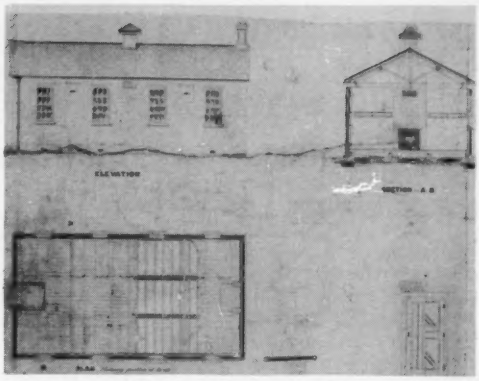
I hated every blade of grass and every sheep in the Curragh where in my time, all the imprimateurs of the all-male monastery operated and one colleague (afterwards the front of the house manager for the Abbey) had his room wrecked because he had been heard listening to Mozart.

In my case I had decorated the walls of my room with prints from *L'Illustration.* One night they were gone. But of course, as in every body's army at the time, I was not suitable for killing people, and perhaps indeed, as a journalist, I still am.

Anyhow, having confessed almost all, how can I not, with all my heart, call a special parade of all surviving members of the 24th Battalion in the Red Room of the Garda Club in Harrington Street on November 26.

Roger Sheehy, P. J. Kenny, Bill Lafford and A. Houston at 97 Sallynoggin Park, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, have blown the trumpets.

I hope that some of the Donegal men, once the pride and joy of the 24th, may drop a line."



Plans for the rebuilding of Beresford, Curragh Camp in 1879. This was the first section of the 1855 camp to be rebuilt. (Air Corps photo)

MEMORIES

Younger officers who see the 1916-21 Club holding functions in their Messes from time to time may have missed a letter from Comdt. D. V. Horgan giving one man's memories of Civil War days. What fascinating stories this "fast diminishing group" have to tell and how often the facts are at variance with the general impression we all have.

Comdt. Horgan wrote -

"It would be a pity if readers, especially the young, would get the impression that all was bitterness and strife during the Civil War. Many old comrades' friendships survived it. Things happened during that period that reflects no credit on the participants of both sides.

The divisions of families, and old comrades, and in my case school-pals that I had hurled with in the North Mon. was a tragedy. My brother Ned and I took opposite sides. I joined the Free State Army, Ned the Anti-Treaty side. He was a very active member of the 1st Cork Brigade, he was in jail and went on a long hunger strike in Cork jail. He went on another one in Newbridge in the Civil War. I was a Fianna boy.

One morning in Moore's Hotel where I was stationed I was given a list of prisoners only identified by number to escort to jail. Ned was one, Daniel Corkery, the great Cork writer whose stories I still enjoy, another. I tried to get out of my assignment, but my Company Commander, Capt. Mattie Vaughan, a strict disciplinarian but a fine soldier, could not relieve me. I told Ned of my responsibility to deliver him to the jail. He said to me: "Vince, you will have no trouble." I took his word on my way to the jail, then in Sundays Well, I stopped at the Western Bar on the Western Road, took my prisoners in and bought them a drink."

"Enough credit will never be given to the mothers like mine who went through the Black and Tan

Cosantoir Plaque recently as Best All Round Sportsman of his Unit for 1979. (Photo: Sgt. M. Twomey.)

War, and suffered again with divided loyalties during the Civil War. It might interest readers to know we now have a 1916-21 Club for veterans of the War of Independence comprised of both sides of that tragic Civil War. Dick Mulcahy, Liam Deasy and Emmet Dalton were members."

D. V. Horgan, Comdt. (Retd.)
Past President 1916-21 Club.

CORRECTIONS

With so many changes due in high Army places early next year - the Ides of March - the following piece from *Business and Finance* may be of value.

"A perennial problem people have with the media is whether or not to seek corrections of inaccuracies. Often, the cure is worse than the disease. It certainly was for a certain Brigadier-General in Australia. The distinguished gentleman was retiring and his local paper printed a glowing account of his career. Unfortunately, the story appeared below a headline that read: "BATTLE-SCARED BRIGADIER RETIRES". Furious Brigadier telephones red-faced editor. Awfully sorry, says editor, certainly we'll print a correction. This read: "BOTTLE-SCARRED BRIGADIER RETIRES". Frantic Brigadier calls crimson-faced editor - "for God's sake, no correction - please"."

RECREATION

The *Nationalist* had two interesting articles on different ways of spending your spare time in the Curragh. The duty-men down there insist that spare time does NOT exist but they will have to take that up with that Phoenix of the Plains - *The Curragh Bulletin.*

Jane Mullins caught up with four Curragh Mountaineers which sounds like a contradiction in terms. However, one of them is Lt. John Sperrin and with a name like that it must be true. Lt. Sperrin together with Capt. Dick Maguire, Cpl. Len O'Rourke and Pte. Dave Cunningham spent the summer holidays climbing Mount Blanc and the Matterhorn. On the 15,000 foot summit they paused to admire the fabulous view. But not for long - on weekends it gets very crowded up there so you have to move on. When the Curragh Quartet arrived there were 30 others already there! Yes, as the Brigadier said to the Barman 'Its really tough at the Top'.

Women's Liberation?

During the time the 11th Inf. Group was in Cyprus and stationed in Xeros in 1968 it became necessary to put down an outside Ball Courts in Camp for which a Steam Roller was required.

The Camp O/C, Comdt. J. Slye (now retired), made contact with a group of women who were working on the roads near the Camp. An arrangement was made and the women moved into Camp and completed the work in record time. The foreman is the civilian, not working, in the front. Comdt. Slye with Sgt. Major Ml. Galvin are in the background.

The Army Signal Corps Radio Club were on call also with a picture of Capt. Con Ryan, Sgt. Thomas Hurley, Cpl. Pat Spillane and Sgt. John Washington. "Sgt. Hurley, who comes from Athy, has been operating a ham radio for over 20 years. During that time he has made contacts with all Continents and had conversations with people in Europe, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and America."

"During the recent Papal visit to Ireland the lads of the Signal Corps Radio Club were very busy. The Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs designated a special code signal for Ireland during that period, EJ instead of EI. People were clamouring to get through so they could get a call receipt card saying they communicated during Pope John Paul's visit."

Surely the call sign should have been EJP. Maybe only two initials allowed. Anyway if you hear "This is EI5 Charlie calling the world" it's Tom Hurley. We seem to remember a Tim Hurley who darkened many a Mess when he went on the air in the dim and distant past.

GOING PLACES

The presentation of a Defence Forces Trophy for competition at the Dublin International Indoor Horse Show received wide coverage. Pictures in the *Irish Press* and *Irish Times* showed the Chief of Staff handing over the handsome trophy to Mr. Eddie Taylor. Deputising for the Minister, Lieut. General O'Sullivan said "they were hoping that the Army's involvement in equestrian affairs and their sponsoring of the Trophy would encourage more young men to join the Army."

"The show coincided with a major recruitment campaign for the Defence Forces which had the theme "Join the Defence Forces and Go Places"."

Unfortunately on the night the Trophy went places other than McKee Bks. but you cannot have everything. Those lucky enough to be present declared it to be the best night of the show.

It's a perpetual trophy so Beidh La eile ag an bPaorach if that's not putting one's hoof in it again.

OBITUARY

Lt. Col. W. J. Kelly

Lt. Col. 'Billy' Kelly, who has died, had a long and varied career in the Army. He was commissioned on 1st October, 1924, but had served in non-commissioned ranks since 1922.

His first appointment was in the Chief of Staff's Branch, moving to Training & Ops. in 1927 and H'qrs., Dublin District in 1932. The year 1937 found him administering the Volunteer Force in Dundalk District, and in 1940 he was Recruiting Officer, Eastern Command. From 1941 onwards his duties were with the LDF and subsequently with the FCA, and he had command of an LDF battalion in 1942 with the rank of Commandant.

He had various appointments with the FCA in Eastern Command until his promotion to Lt. Col. in January, 1955, when he was appointed to command the 3rd Curragh Battalion, as it was then designated. He relinquished his command and was attached Training Section in February, 1958 until his retirement in November of that year. It is however in connection with the Dublin Grand Opera Society that he will be chiefly remembered. He was a founder-member of that excellent body, and in recognition of his services to Grand Opera he was decorated by the Italian Government.

The funeral to Dean's Grange on 9th November was representative both of his old comrades and his many friends and admirers in the musical life of Dublin.

H. W.

Cadet Interview

Half an hour to go
Sitting on this chair,
Time passes so slow
I'll soon be in there.

Outwardly I'm calm
Completely in control
But really I'm so nervous
Panic in my soul.

I hope I smiled a smile
And not a sickly grin
As the captain opened the door
And ushered me in

Before the interview
I wanted it over and done with
But to my surprise
I really did enjoy it.

I could not help but think
That this could be a bore
With hundreds trying to impress you
And you've heard it all before.

Denis Lynch

6 Inf. Bn. band: Cpl. J. lennon; Pte. G. Lennon; Cpl. B. Lennon; Sgt. A. Byrne and Pte. O. Hussey. (Photo: Cpl. P. O'Callaghan)

"TOPS OF THE TOWN" PREVIEW

An audience of almost four hundred enjoyed a recent Barrack Concert, produced by 'A' Company, 6th Infantry Battalion, Custume Barracks, Athlone.

The purpose of the Concert was twofold. Firstly, to encourage young Army personnel, especially Recruits, to display their talents. It also acted as a preview to the annual "Tops of the Town" competition in which the barracks feature with considerable success.

Among the performers were members of the Western Command Band and of the 6th Infantry Battalion Pipe Band. Comdt. P. J. Keane (Command Operations), Lieuts. Noel O'Grady and James Byrne (both 6th Infantry Battalion) rendered traditional music, folk songs and ballads respectively. A U.N. "Scene" and a "Recruit" sketch, featuring Recruits presently training in 'A' Company, 6th Infantry Battalion, provided excellent comedy. Guest Artistes included Dermot Foy and Skillot Pot, a well known group; Mr. Thomas Moore, a comic of rare quality; ten years old David Norton, an All-Ireland Step-dancer; and singer-cum-guitarist, Bernadette Stapleton, wife of Captain Michael Stapleton. A Choral Group, consisting of Corporal William McDermott and ten Recruits, provided a splendid finale to a most entertaining evening. The Concert was introduced by Comdt. W. Comber 'A' Company and compered by Coy. Sgt. J. mcDonagh of Area Records.

Brigadier O Suibhne, at a function for both cast and guests afterwards, emphasised the importance of extra curricular activities for Recruits. He added that productions such as these were invaluable in that they helped to stimulate interest in worthwhile leisure activities. He conveyed his appreciation to all concerned and wished them success in the forthcoming "Tops of the Town" competition.

N. O'G.

21 Bn. Competition

In a varied competition held by the 21st Inf. Bn. a platoon under 2/Lt. J. Good and Sgt. N. Murphy were the winners. Rock Brae House was the location for the competitions which included drill, grenade throwing, obstacle course, orienteering, cross-country and a falling plates shooting competition.

DFAA - January 1980

Cross Country Senior Championships 30/1/80 - Curragh
Squash - 29 & 30/1/80 - East + Air Corps

UNIFORM SECTION : No. 4
Legal Service Officers' Full Dress Uniform, 1935-1955

F. Glenn Thompson

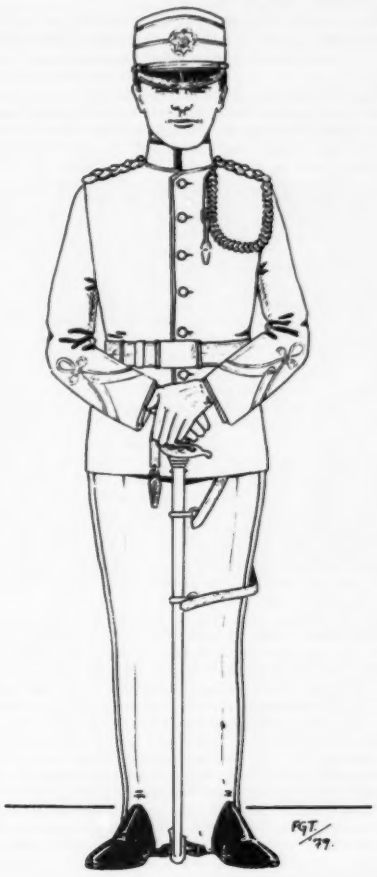
THIS particular uniform was unique among the Full Dress uniforms of the period. Although provided for in Dress Regulations, with minor alterations which came to light following the discovery of a shako and tunic in March 1975; it appears highly unlikely that the uniform was ever actually worn. If any of our readers can recollect seeing this uniform worn, the writer would be delighted to hear.

The basic colours of this uniform were black, cream and silver.

SHAKO: Black whipcord, front 5" high and back 3½" high. The crown was of cream facing cloth which overlapped the sides to the extent of ¼"; the seam was covered by a row of 3/36" silver Russia braid. (Dress Regulations specified a black whipcord crown). On the crown was a line of black tubular cloth ½" from the edge, and, on the centre of the crown was a silver wire interlaced design. (Dress Regulations specified a line of silver embroidery wire ½" from the edge). Half way down the side of the shako was a line of cream piping. The Army Cap Badge• in silver wire, the star edged, most likely black thread; the centre portion consisting of the belt and the F.F. monogram was raised on cream silk. All this workmanship was on a ground of cream facing cloth. The chin-strap of twisted silver cord with two runners, was held in position by two small silver buttons crested with the Army Badge. Black patent leather peak 2⅛" deep with silver fern leaf embroidery around the edge for Field Officers.

TUNIC: Black whipcord. Collar of cream facing cloth with slightly rounded corners; a row of 3/16" silver Russia braid was fitted around the base; the front and upper edges of the collar were piped with black. The collar had not been pierced to take a badge, which rumour alleges that the arms of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland were considered. A white linen collar showed 1/16". The left front edge of the tunic was braided with 3/16" silver Russia braid, and the right edge from the waist seam to the bottom, likewise. Six large silver buttons which bore the harp and the letters "I.V." The space between the last two buttons was sufficient to allow the belt to sit properly. At the back of the tunic the two top buttons were plugged on the waist seam at the top of the slashes. The other two buttons of each slash were plugged equi-distant and close to the pleat. The slashes were of cream facing cloth and were edged with 3/16" silver Russia braid. The centre seam pleat had a line of 3/16" silver Russia braid. The buttons were the same size as on the tunic front. Each slash was two pointed, with the points facing towards the centre seam and measured 3¼" wide at the bottom point; 2" at the centre and tapering to ½" at the waist. The cuff was pointed and was of cream facing cloth, surmounted by two rows of 3/16" silver Russia braid. The cream facing cloth was 6" high at the point and 2¼" high at the hind arm seam; a ¼" strip of cream facing cloth was worn between the two rows of braid. The upper row of braid formed a three looped "crow's foot" design and the lower row a single loop. The overall width of the bottom loops of the "crow's foot" was 1¼" and that of the top loop ⅞". The width of the lower loop was ½". White linen cuffs showed 1/16" and white doeskin or buckskin gloves were worn. The epaulettes were made of interlaced silver cord and were fitted to the tunic by a screw button, in such a way as to allow the lanyard of plaited silver cord to be worn on the left shoulder, and to be fastened to the epaulette button by a loop. The lanyard terminated in an acorn. A Colonel's insignia of three diamonds were worn on the epaulette. The diamonds were made of silver embroidery wire on a scarlet facing cloth base and measured 1" diagonally from point to point, and worn diagonally ½" apart. The waist belt was made of black Morocco leather 1½" wide with two bands of ⅛" silver Shamrock lace; between the bands was woven ⅛" of black silk and ⅛" of black Morocco leather showed at the outer edges of the lace. The buckle was silver.

OVERALLS: Black barathea cloth with a single cream facing cloth stripe 1½" wide. Boots: Black full or half Wellingtons or black elastic sided Alberts were worn, fitted for nickel steel box spurs.



CLOAK: The cloak of black facing cloth hung down to within 10" of the ground. The collar was of black velvet. The clasps and cahin were silver. Lining of black silk. The cloak was worn thrown back over the left shoulder to show the black lining to effect and to carry the sword unhindered.

SWORD: The hilt which contained the Army Badge and the scabbard were nickel plated. The sword slings, suspended from a belt under the tunic were made of black Morocco leather 1" wide and faced with ⅛" silver Shamrock lace. The sword knot of silver Shamrock lace terminated in a medium sized silver acorn.

• The Army Cap Badge was missing from the actual shako examined.

Sources: Adjutant General's Provisional letter of 5th February, 1936; Quartermaster General's "Specifications" of 1st December, 1937. Actual Items of Uniform.

BOOK REVIEWS

COMBAT AIRCRAFT OF WORLD WAR TWO. Elke C. Weal, John F. Weal and Richard F. Barker. Pp. 238. Arms and Armour Press, London, 1977. £9.95 (U.K.)

GERMAN AIRCRAFT OF WORLD WAR 2 IN COLOUR. Kenneth Munson. Pp. 160. Blandford, Poole, 1978. £5.95 (U.K.)

The literature on aircraft of the second world war is already enormous, and as additions to the field these two books invite comparison with some pretty stiff competition. (The most direct comparisons, among books currently on the market, might be made with the Salamander publications by Bill Gunston and Tony Wood, whose high standard of visual presentation, qualifying them as 'coffee-table' books, might paradoxically lead to underestimation of their very solid content.)

Combat Aircraft of World War Two, despite its large format, its sixty-four pages of colour plates, and its profusion of line drawings, is emphatically not a coffee-table book. It is based on the archives of the R.A.F. museum, Hendon, amplified by a wealth of information from other sources, and its scope is even wider than its title would suggest. It sets out to tabulate every single type of aircraft known to have been used by combatant and peripheral neutral air forces, not merely during 1939-45 but in the preparatory conflicts in China and (to this reviewer's gratification) Spain; it thus includes dozens of types whose main period of service was in the 1920s and 1930s, and many which continued in use into the 1950s and 1960s. For each type the data given includes power plant, performance, weights, dimensions, armament, crew, forces with which the aircraft served, details of variants, numbers produced, and an outline sketch of the service record. major types receive extended treatment. For instance, the Fw 190 has five full individual entries, the A-3, D-9, F-3, G-3 and Ta 152H-1 being the exemplars, with ample data on the numerous sub-types. The colour plates are beautiful, and each shows a significant and well-researched example of the aircraft represented (my general reservations about pictures of aircraft are given below). The figure of an airman accompanies each plate as an index of scale. It is not infallible: on pp 28, 29 and 31 I found the figure much too small, and on pp 30, 47 and 51 somewhat too large. However, the text provides the corrective to this very minor failing. Lists of the order of battle (i.e. distribution and equipmentits) at crucial dates are given for the Belgian, Finnish, French, German, British, Italian, Japanese, Dutch, Polish and U.S. air forces. There are six pages of abbreviations and glossary, four and a half very closely packed pages of bibliography, and an index of all types listed. Any specialist may be able to find something to add or correct; the fact remains that this is a unique systematic compilation of essential data on an incredible number and variety of aircraft, superlatively presented; an indispensable work of reference. As J. M. Bruce, keeper of aircraft and aviation records at Hendon, says in his introduction, 'nothing did more to emphasise the need for such a book than the research undertaken in its preparation.'

German Aircraft of World War 2 in Colour has the much more modest aim of serving as a handy concise guide to the principal types used by the wartime Luftwaffe, with emphasis on visual presentation, particularly colouring and insignia. The team responsible for it is a strong one.

Kenneth Munson is best known for his series of excellent volumes making up the Blandford **Pocket encyclopaedia of world aircraft in colour**; indeed, the present book is very similar in its ingredients, presented in a larger format and on an extended scale, with the addition of many photographs. There is an introductory sketch of the Luftwaffe's wartime history; technical data is in tabular form, both in metric and non-metric units; and each type has a brief narrative description, much as in the **Pocket encyclopaedia.** Appendices include a gazetteer of production centres; a table of data for minor types; lists of major units with their principal equipment and unit codes, principal aero-engines, and abbreviations; a select bibliography, and an index. The data on markings and insignia comes from the supremely authoritative Karl Ries; and the colour consultant and researcher is Ian D. Huntley, who not only is a recognised authority in this field but has recently published what must be the standard work on the authentic colouring of scale models. The artwork is of the same standard as in the **Pocket encyclopaedia**, and on a much larger scale. A unique asset is the inclusion of a chart of Luftwaffe colours (p. 17 and the back flap), to which each colour plate is cross-referenced. For many, the visual aspect of the book will be its main selling-point. There is, however, a basic dilemma in presenting pictures of aircraft, from which this book is not exempt. Next to actually seeing a machine, photographs must always be the primary source for its appearance; however, photographs are not generally a good guide to colour. Good artwork, combining the precision of a blueprint with well-researched colouring, goes far to make up for this; but the reader is then necessarily at the mercy of the artist. Any artist is likely to deviate from complete fidelity to his original sources, and even the best artist is at the mercy of the colour printing process. Thus on pp 56-7 a Fw 190, in what must be intended as *sandgelb*, has come out looking decidedly pink, and the pale grey of the Ju 86 on p. 102 is instead a sort of light buff. I have a few similar visual, or perhaps editorial, niggles: symbols (presumably company emblems) appear, e.g. on pp 19, 39 and 53, without explanation; when the emblem of KG 40 appears in different forms on pp 41 and 67 the reader is left in the dark as to whether these are true variants or somebody's mistake; and the photo of a Dornier Do 215 on the back jacket appears reversed on p. 39. **Hitler's Luftwaffe**, by Bill Gunston and Tony Wood, published by Salamander at the same price as this book, is a particularly strong competitor; however, despite the reservations above, the colour chart will for many tip the scales in favour of Kenneth Munson, Ian Huntley and their collaborators.

Richard Hawkins

LIFE IN THE CASTLE IN MEDIEVAL ENGLAND. John Burke. B. T. Batsford Ltd. £4.75

If you are one of those people who enjoys exploring ruined buildings you will find this well illustrated book as just what you want to bring life into the bare walls. From the first Norman motte and bailey to the elaborate manor houses the author traces developments in lay out and construction and the daily routine in times of peace and war. Taken all round the lord and his lady were only marginally more comfortable than their retainers, and in the early years they all lived communally in the great hall of the keep, even sleeping there.

Childhood was short in those days - at 14 a lad was expected to qualify as a competent squire, be adept at fencing, hunting, hawking, horsemanship and tilting. The social order was already defined and social movement almost impossible, but the family groupings within the lordships, and the close proximity in which people had to live, may have compensated for the disadvantages endured. Mr. Burke concludes his book with this paragraph 'The horrors of disease, deprivation and torture, of starvation during sieges and of death in foul dungeons, recede into the background when we contemplate the romantic silhouette of some old tower and battlements on the skyline. Romance survives, everyday reality conveniently fades. Edward Gibbon was right: There is more pleasure in building castles in the air than on the ground.'

c.c.

"THE SOYUZ AFFAIR" Stephen Coulter. Panther-Granada. 80p. + VAT.

This novel is set in the Colonels' Greece and concerns the adventures and misadventures of an American journalist who came upon evidence that the CIA had somehow done something which resulted in the deaths of three cosmonauts on reentry in a Soyuz.

It is a very gripping tale and not so implausible. The telling of it is fluid but inclined to wander at times. The description of various sounds is excellent but the fact that a refrigerator 'gave a hiccup and began to hum' does not have much bearing on matters. Early in the book we meet Pamela Davis but she never reappears until towards the end a Brit complains that she said

she would have to know him better. Yeah, well a Yank had the same problem in chapter 2. Pamela reminds me of the boy in one of Waugh's books, the little runner who got shot with a starting pistol.

If you can tolerate the noise and the likes of Pamela (and in many good thrillers there are such occasions of tolerance) then you will enjoy reading Soyuz. I did.

T. C. L.

THE DYNAMITE WAR - Irish American Bombers in Victorian Britain. K. R. M. Short. Gill and MacMillan. £8.95.

I must confess that before reading this book I knew very little of the subject. Most history books treat of it in a very cursory fashion. Even F. S. L. Lyons dismisses the subject in a single paragraph.

The book deals with the years 1881-1887 during which time three of Britains main cities, Liverpool, Glasgow and particularly London were under attack from teams of bombers. These teams were led, financed and drew their members from two Irish-American organizations based in the United States of America, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa's Skirmishers and Clan na Gael.

The IRB had in 1867 been responsible for the explosion at Clerkenwell House of Detention which killed or seriously injured almost one hundred and fifty people. This organization later rejected the use of dynamite altogether. Due to the effect bombing in Britain would have on the people in Ireland and even more so on the Irish living in Britain if there was a backlash the policy of the Skirmishers and Clan na Gael was to limit the targets to public buildings and places.

The story that unravels in these pages is quite fascinating even if the author tends to be rather blase when dealing with the objectives of Irish nationalism. All the ingredients of a good thriller are present; spies (especially Henri Le Caron who must be one of the most incredible spies Britain ever produced), smuggling, development of counter-measures by the British, Hollands submarine, informers, inter organizational wrangling and so on.

Both Clan na Gael and the IRB tried to prevent Rossa's Skirmishers from operating in London but even though they failed, the Skirmishers first attempted to plant a bomb at the Mansion House in London in 1881 was a non-event as a policeman on duty quickly defused the bomb. By 1883 even though the efforts by the Skirmishers were totally inept, there was panic in Britain and the British increased her counter-measures which were, considering the lack of passports and suchlike were quite successful. The operation in which Tom Clarke was arrested is well documented. Following good detective work Clarke and three others were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Relations between Britain and the USA suffered as the American authorities refused to take action against the Irish American organization, particularly the "dynamite press" and it was only at the end of the campaign that they took any effective measures. The bombings were not continuous between 1881 and 1887 as there was a lull between January 1865 and summer 1887 due to Gladstones conversion to Home Rule and also because the Irish American organization was badly split.

While neither the Skirmishers nor Clan na Gael did not have much success in the bombing campaigns, they left alive the spirit of a military solution to the Irish problem and indeed up to 1916, Clan na Gael was the life line for Irish revolutionaries.

Capt. P. Young

THE PERFORMING RIGHTS YEARBOOK 1979. Published by the Performing Rights Society.

Thou shalt not steal!

Have you ever noticed the cassette-creeps in the second row carrying on their nefarious practice under an anorak? Some of them are bold enough to ask a steward where he can hang his stereo-mikes. Good stewards should hang the questioner from his mikes or offer him the Grand March from Tannhauser - out the door.

I know a clergyman who indulges in this larceny. I'm certain the good man wouldn't dream of stealing a can of emulsion for his flats (and I'm not implying that he has parish property). I know he would never raid a store for a few yards of muslin for his 'Davy Jones Locker' scene. But he has no qualms about robbing some original music or lyrics from a light entertainment show in his neighbouring county.

Would that all performers, directors, producers and local concert organisers could study THE PERFORMING RIGHTS YEARBOOK 1979. The PRS is an association of composers, authors and publishers of musical works. It is non-profit making but endeavours to collect fees and royalties for the public performance of the works of its members.

The yearbook defines many changes brought about by the advent of piped music, music broadcast from record shops and the like. It gives some interesting case histories. It presents news and pictures (The English Chamber Orchestra and the Boomtown Rats share the same page!) It is of great interest not only to its society members but to anybody who respects musical creation.

P. O'F.

GEORGIAN DUBLIN. Desmond Guinness. Batsford. £15.

The publication of a book such as this forces us to realise what marvellous buildings there are in Dublin; if only the developers of the five per cent of the city which is classified Georgian would read this book and see what Dublin is! Then, perhaps, their new structures would be more sympathetic and we would again have a capital to be proud of. The author briefly outlines the architectural history of this period in Dublin, and then summarises the work of the 1908 Georgian Society, and of the present IGS, which this year celebrates its twenty-first birthday.

Four colour and numerous black and white plates illustrate the subject. As well as the better known buildings such lesser appreciated places as Collins barracks, Kilmainham Gaol, SS. Michael and John and Dr. Steven's Hospital are discussed. With the current work on the Royal Hospital all of the principal public buildings are now reasonably safe, but the destruction of the street houses continues, and even when facades are sometimes savfine interiors are destroyed. A plea is made by Desmond Guinness for these internal features, and he recommends that a suitable house should be furnished from the National Museum, where the furniture is not well displayed, and opened to the public. This is a constructive proposal and if it could be realised this year it would be a fitting birthday present for the IGS.

Con Costello

THREE WEEKS IN OCTOBER. Yael Dayan. Weidenfeld and Nicholson. £5.50.

Yael Dayan, a daughter of General Moshe Dayan, who is a native of Israel and married to General Dov Siou, has penned a war novel which is not your usual run-of-the-mill war novel. This is her sixth book and her writing since her first, New Faces in the Mirror, which was youthful, romantic and heroic, was published in 1959, has changed. In this book she captures the mood of a people grown used to warfare. The subject is examined through the eyes of Amalia, who serves in a military hospital and Amalia's husband, Daniel, a retired member of Israel's military intelligence section. Central to the story is the mute, unmoving cocoon of a critically burned unidentified Israeli soldier.

The victorious, undefeatable, jubilent mood of the ordinary people of Israel during previous wars has given way to a feeling of despondency, worry and indeed unspoken censure of the government, who allowed yet another war deprive them of their loved ones.

The story is delicately and beautifully put together. It is a well written book which gets behind the public face of a people at war and probes the thoughts and feelings of those caught up in it, both soldier and civilian. We get a glimpse of actual warfare - hot sun and sand, the confusion, heroic actions and bloodshed of battle - but the book is more concerned with the aftermath of war. The plight of widows, the injured, the families who have lost loved ones, these are the people of whom the book tells.

The Israeli Intelligence Service gets a few kicks in the posterior, I'm afraid, despite its international renown. It failed to provide timely intelligence on the build up and strength of the enemy forces and in this novel one of its agents is A.W.O.L. too.

However, the book is very readable, even if it does move to a predictable ending. It is not a story of warfare, but of people

engaged in a costly - in lives and money - worrying and perhaps unnecessary battle.

M. M.

JUST AND UNJUST WARS: a moral argument with historical illustrations. Michael Walzer. Allen Lane, Penguin Books Ltd., London 1978. pp. 361. £7.50.

The author is a professor at Harvard University where he lectured for many years on the notion of a "just war". In this book, which is not his first, he tries to "set out the moral argument about war" and particularly "to defend the business of arguing in moral terms". In short, a moral theology of war, "to account for the ways in which citizens argue about war and to expound the terms we commonly use". His arguments hang on historic cases, mostly modern, which lend a certain interest to the book. But since he takes the moral law to be "those general principles that we commonly acknowledge" and admits to being "by no means sure what the foundations of morality are", the reader can only admire his good intentions while looking about for a more confident guide. It might also be a good idea to wait for the English translation.

Hugh Fenning O.P.

'MAKING YOUR OWN AQUARIUM' Jorgan Hansen. Bell & Hyman, London. £5.50 net.

Someone setting up a tropical aquarium (there's no mention of goldfish) may be disappointed in the lack of colour photographs and perhaps confused by the pages of mathematical calculations about how to find the volume of water per fish in a tank to the amount of light emitted per type of bulb. However, the book fully explains all it intends to. Jorgan Hansen displays his academic knowledge but presents the book simply and clearly giving straightforward information vital to any would-be aquarist and numerous tips of interest to those with already established aquaria.

There are five chapters on the different species of fish one can keep together peacefully and their most favoured surroundings (type plants, rocks, caves etc.), while the opening chapters illustrate how one may build tanks of different shapes and sizes, giving many hints most books omit.

M. C.

THE YEAR OF THE FRENCH. Thomas Flanagan. Macmillan Ltd. £6.95.

The absence of good historical novels with an Irish background is frequently deplored, the appearance of a Prescot or Renault has been long awaited. Now this Irish-American Professor of English has provided a story which fills the void.

1798 in County Mayo, and the arrival of the French, is the theme. It unfolds through the experiences of a myriad of characters, the parson of Killala and his wife, landowners both catholic and protestant, schoolmasters, rebels, generals and soldiers. Historically the work is impeccable and, as a bonus, readable, The development of the individuals, their very different views of the tragic happenings and their feelings are beautifully captured. So is the atmosphere of the autumn countryside, a year like this one, golden and fruitful. But the events of war overtake the harvesters, death is the reaper, and at the end of the tale there are no happy endings. With tremendous insight the author has plumbed the minds of the gentry and the peasants, the sophisticated George Moore and the wandering poet MacCarthy. The generals, French and English, use the chess board to their own ends, the rebels end up on the scaffold or in the cell.

This is a story which anyone interested in history could read, and the bulk of the book (516 pages) should not deter. This reviewer generally avoids the mammoth American novel, and it was only on a very few occasions that this great narrative dragged. Not since Prof. Donnelly's 'The Land and the people of 19th century Cork' could a work by an Irish-American be more welcomed. Thomas Flanagan's emigrant Fenian ancestors must be proud of him.

C. C.

BORN IN BATTLE: 'The Edge of the Sword', War Data 1. Centurion. Eshel-Dramit Ltd., Israel. £1.25 (£1.50).

"Born in Battle" is an unusual series of magazines, dealing as it does with the armed forces of a single nation, Israel. A series of individual magazines, each issue deals with one aspect of Israeli defence activities, relating it to the history and development of Israel as a nation. Previous issues having already dealt with the Israeli Air Force and the Yom Kippur War, "The Edge of the Sword" covers the birth and growth of the Israeli Armoured Corps, from stealing tanks at the ending of the British Mandate to the developing of the new 'Merkava' main battle tank, utilising the experience gained in the many battles which are well covered in this book. The story it recounts of the techniques used both to get armoured vehicles and to employ them successfully in battle makes very interesting reading, well illustrated with numerous photographs.

The early 'home-made' armoured cars, modified vehicles, and main battle tanks are well covered in illustrations, although the main emphasis is on the operational history of the Corps, rather than on its equipment, with detailed descriptions of many of the individual battles in which it was involved, and an interesting description of how its tactical doctrine has evolved.

The equipment of the Israeli Defence Forces is covered in a series of "Born in Battle Specials" which go under the general title of "War Data". The first of these deals in considerable detail with the Centurion MBT, not just in Israeli service, but covering its service throughout the world since its initial development in 1943. There are photographs and descriptions of the Centurion's involvement in Korea and in the Indo-Pakistani wars, as well as its service in Vietnam and the various Middle-Eastern affrays. A special section is devoted to the modifications made in Israeli service, amounting almost to a complete rebuild, which has kept this tank in front-line service against much more modern opponents. Also included in the magazine is a detailed, large-scale, four-view drawing of this re-armed and re-engined "BenGurion".

While there is a wealth of information available concerning the weapons and battles of the Second World War, more recent conflicts are sparsely represented on the bookshelves and these two series of publications go at least partway towards filling the gaps. Naturally enough, the accounts of battles leave the reader in no doubt about who the 'good guys' are, but over-all a good couple-of-quid's worth for anyone interested in the modern application of armoured warfare, and a series worth keeping an eye on.

D. J. McC.

THE WORLD'S ARMIES. Chris Chant. David & Charles, London. £6.50.

This is an illustrated encyclopedia of the ground forces of every nation and a companion volume to "The World's Navies" and "The World's Air Forces". It is laid out alphabetically by countries, 127 of them, and in addition to Army organisation and numbers it lists the main equipment in use as at the beginning of 1979.

The information on strengths and organisation seems identical with that contained in the Military Balance. No doubt this is due to the fact that the team of military authorities which produced the volume included members from the Institute of Strategic Studies, publishers of the Military Balance. So the facts in the World's Armies are accurate but, as the Introduction acknowledges, upheavals such as those in Iran, Uganda and Kampuchea can change the figures drastically, without warning. As indeed has our Defence Forces Reorganisation effected our figures in the Book, although this development can hardly be described as an upheaval except by those personally affected. The Publishers hope to overcome this problem of change and amendment by periodic editions "to enable the information to be updated in the light of defelopments."

The World's Armies is an attractive well-produced publication and should be a welcome addition to any Military Reference Library.

J. O'L.

In Fours:

According to Norman Polmar, Editor, *The Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet*, and an expert on the Soviet Navy, East European press reports have stated that the new Russian warship will have anti-air and anti-ship missiles and anti-submarine weapons.

'I'll bet they'll have plenty of guns, too,' Polmar said. 'And if I know them, they rarely build one of a kind. They probably will be building two or more - maybe four. They seem to build things in fours.' (Proceedings - USA)

MASSACRE ON THE ROAD TO DUNKIRK. Leslie Aitken. Granada. £1.04.

This non-fiction account of the massacre of eighty British soldiers on the retreat to Dunkirk is comprised of eyewitness reports. These statements, numerous maps and photographs, and a detailed account of the events of Spring 1940 are compiled by the Reverend Leslie Aitkens into a very readable story, objectively and clearly written. Along with the statements of the few survivors, which appear in full in the appendix, some German accounts are also represented showing the depth of the research, which began in 1972 (the book was first published in 1977).

It is indicated that this massacre was not unique during the war; and the main effect of this book is to reinforce the list of atrocities already attributed to the SS regiments. As the author says in the preface, "the telling of this story to a wide public is long overdue", both as a tribute to the men involved, and as a historical account. D. C.

EXPUGNATIO HIBERNICA: The Conquest of Ireland. Giraldus Cambrensis. edited by A. B. Scott F. X. Martin. Royal Irish Academy. £8.

This ancillary publication to *A New History of Ireland*, (being edited for the RIA by Profs. Moody, Martin and Byrne) is the third to be issued. Dr. Scott's translation from the Latin is the first in a hundred years, and the comprehensive historical notes by Prof. Martin provide insights into the period which will keep lesser scholars quarrying for another century.

Gerald of Wales, (c.1146-1223), archdeacon of Brecon, was a nephew of the bishop of St. David's. He twice visited Ireland, in 1183 and in 1185, spending altogether two years here. On his second visit he was in the company of prince John. Two works resulted from his visit, the *Expugnation* and *Topographia Hibernica* in which he believed he 'unfolded clearly and truthfully the story of the days of old' in this strange country. After further visits here 20 years later he revised his text.

In Ireland Gerald was frequently meeting, and subsequently describing, his cousins as like the FitzGerald's and the Carew's, he was descended from the Welsh princess Nesta and Gerald of Windsor. The native Irish he did not think much of 'the foulest, the most sunk in vice, the most uninstructed of all nations of the earth in the rudiments of the faith' and 'a wild and inhospitable people. They live on beasts only and live like beasts'. He records his version of the constitutions of the Council of Cashel in 1172. Amongst them is found 'thus in all parts of the Irish church all matters relating to religion are to be conducted hereafter on the pattern of Holy Church, and in line with the observances of the English church. For it is proper that, just as by God's grace Ireland has received her Lord and King from England, so too she should receive a better pattern of living from that same quarter . . . before the king's arrival in Ireland evil practices of many kinds had arisen there from remotest times. These have now fallen into disuse thanks to his power and his efforts'.

John de Courcy's invasion of Ulaid is described with the observation that 'in this island, as in every country, the people in the north are always more warlike and savage'. He saw there the fulfillment of the prophecy of Columba 'that the slaughter of the people would be so great that their enemies would wade up to their knees in blood'. O'Curry's comment on these prophecies over a century ago was that they were spurious . . . possibly fabricated by Gerald himself! Whatever way you look at the narrative it is full of interesting and often amusing comment and, as Prof. Scott writes in the **Introduction**, 'No one else has left us a comparable account of any episode on the history of Ireland in the Middle Ages. That is the measure of Giraldus' achievement.' c. c.

THE ROUND TOWERS OF IRELAND. George Lennox Barrow. Academy Press. £15.

This is the first major study of Round Towers to appear for over 130 years. Though little documented, these distinctive monuments are the most characteristic of our landscape and in earlier times their origin and builders led to a variety of myths. George Petrie in 1845 placed the towers in their proper perspective; now Lennox Barrow proposes some new theories which, no doubt, will again create discussion.

It has been generally accepted that the towers were built to protect the monastic personnel and valuables from Viking raids. Dr. Barrow quotes the Annals to show that these foreigners burnt only two towers, in the 10th and 11th centuries, while five were destroyed by the Irish in the 11th and 12th centuries. He accepts that the towers may have been used as places of refuge, but he holds that they were an integral part of monastic design, built as bell towers within a century of the foundation of a house. While they also served as watch towers, landmarks and refuges he considers that as the location of the founder's bell they were all important. The Brehon Laws are quoted to prove that a monastery was entitled to the property of a stranger who died within sound of its bells, and to flotsam and jetsam within the same area.

Dr. Barrow dates the towers as early as the 7th century, in which period the legendary Goban Saor is placed. A master mason, his myth could embody the teams of builders who may have travelled from site to site to erect the structures. By the 7th century, it is argued, the Irish were familiar with the use of mortaring, hoisting and scaffolding learnt from Roman Britain; and they had long been accustomed to creating circular dry stone buildings, such as tombs, forts and beehive huts. Contrary to the usual belief, that the idea of these free standing towers came here from Europe, the author suggests that our towers could instead be 'the inspiration of the towers that were to become the pre-eminent feature of the churches of western Europe in centuries to come.'

The sixty five towers surviving in whole or part are discussed, as well as two in Scotland and one in the Isle of Man. Sixty three other towers are also considered, and a gazatteer by counties describes each tower as it is now, and relates its history. Clear drawings and photographs, an index, a glossary and a list of sites with towers makes this excellently produced book a worthwhile contribution to scholarship.

Con Costello.

PARACHUTE BADGES AND INSIGNIA OF THE WORLD. R. J. Bragg and Roy Turner. Blandford. £4.95.

This is the latest offering in the well established Blandford Colour Series and is well up to the standard of its predecessors, being packed with information and illustration.

Paratroops are essentially a product of World War II, the first jumps of the war being made by small groups of Russians in Finland. The Germans were the first to use these new troops and tactics en mass in their invasions of Scandanavia and the Low Countries.

The recent film "A Bridge Too Far" dealing with 'Operation Market Garden' shows both the scale of operations later in the war and the terrible consequences of failure. These troops knew that having been dropped into action they either had to fight their way out or at the least be made prisoners for the duration of the war.

As a result they rapidly won a reputation for ferocious resistance and the nicknames of *'The Green Devils'* of the German Fallschirmjager and *'The Red Devils'* of The Parachute Regiment didn't only refer to their distinctive clothing. They really were devilish forces to meet in combat.

During the war thousands of men (and some women as well) jumped into enemy held territory and this book deals in great detail with the brevets worn by the uniformed personnel involved. Nor does it stop at 1945, it goes right on up to 1977, with two appendices listing combat jumps up to May of that year by the 2nd Regiment of the French Foreign Parachutists in Zaire.

Over nine hundred brevets from all over the world are shown in colour, spanning the globe from Abu Dhabi to Zambia. However, I must point out that only brevets, the actual 'wings'

are shown. Don't expect to find unit insignia in this book.

The first half of the book gives a history of the parachute units country by country, followed in the second half by the illustrations and descriptions of the badges, ending with the appendices.

One country conspicuous by its absence is Ireland, but now that a parachute course has been run in Gormanstown perhaps the next edition may have an example to show. As a badge collector I certainly hope so.

While it is a very specialised book, I would recommend it to anyone interested in elite forces and the airborne role in modern warfare, containing as it does the listing of combat jumps to 1977, and the very ample text.

Meier

KESSELRING: THE MAKING OF THE LUFTWAFFE. Kenneth Macksey. Batsford. £8.50.

Kesselring was an officer of the old school, with intelligence, energy and charm, who over-simplified an important part of his own intellectual outlook. It seems that he never critically examined the regime he served so well. When Hitler, raging against the Wehrmacht and the Kriegsmarine, said "but I have a National Socialist Air Force" he might well have been thinking of Kesselring. The Field Marshal remained loyal to the end, and beyond.

Unhappily married and childless, Kesselring sought no consolation elsewhere, but buried himself in unremitting work. His lonely career sems to fascinate Mr. Macksey who says that Kesselring developed early "into that rare bird, the technical staff officer of mature education who knew how to balance the requirements of tactics and technology." He never ceased to learn. He became an accomplished pilot and navigator at the age of 48 on transfer to the new Luftwaffe.

His planes bombed Warsaw, Rotterdam and Moscow. He commanded Luftlotte II, covering the South-East, in the Battle of Britain. His tactics were better than those of Milch (Luftflotte I) and caused severe losses to the RAF, despite the fact that daily orders for both fleets were intercepted and deciphered by the ULTRA system. Revelations about ULTRA are causing many reassessments and reducing some reputations. But why did men like Kesselring, Rommel and Guderian never suspect that they were up against anything more than normal interception?

Kesselring was responsible for the coordinated blow which crippled the Soviet Air Force on the Central Front. The memoirs of Alexander Yakovlev, the YAK designer, confirm the effectiveness of that blow - both to aircraft on the ground and in combat. (How few engineers can write so well for a general readership, or can set the vicissitudes of engineering design in the political, industrial and military background. Neville Shute's "Slide Rule" is the only comparable book known to this reviewer.) Yakovlev quotes the "History of the Great Patriotic War" in putting part of the blame for unpreparedness on the NKVD. That history dismisses as "rejected" . . . "the bourgeois theories ascribing the main role to some specific technical means - the air force or armour." But Yakovlev writes of an "infatuation with the Douhet doctrine, which held that possession of a powerful bomber air force could secure decisive military supremacy." "We regarded heavy bombers as the main, decisive element of our Air Force and continued, for years, to produce them in large numbers." He ends by saying "from a military point of view they proved inefficient." Nevertheless, by mid-November 1941 the Luftwaffe was exhausted. The Soviets were recovering. Udet, the glamorous ace of WW I, shot himself. As Deputy Minister of Aviation, and a very unsuitable Chief of the Technical Office, he had simply failed to keep up-to-date with technology. In Kesselring's view Udet had ruined the Luftwaffe. As Yakovlev points out, and as Udet's career proved, the wrong decisions in technical equipment or training take time to show themselves - and are all the more deadly because of this. The 1977 "Adelphi Papers" (No. 144) of the International Institute for Strategic Studies on the equipment decisions now facing NATO have much to say on this problem. Yakovlev's own acquaintance with Udet, and his views on Udet's death, largely corroborate Mr. Macksey's, but without mentioning Kesselring.

In late 1941 Kesselring got overall command in Italy. He had been the best soldier among the airmen; he now had to be a diplomat, administrator and commander. He had never been a Douhet fan. In the Polish and Russian campaigns "While guarding the Luftwaffe's interests he took the Army's part and rejected the Luftwaffe's dream of total independence." His appointment as overall commander caused criticism. This was refuted by his conduct of the long Italian delaying-action. Despite air and sea supremacy, Allied illusions - and careers - were wrecked. No one could sense more accurately than Kesselring when a thrust was losing momentum, or had such consummate judgement about when to pull out and when to stand. How he would have fared against Rokossovsky and his extraordinary Assault Engineers it is difficult to say. Against Alexander's deliberation and Clark's self-aggrandizement he was supreme. Alone among Hitler's generals he could give ground and retain his post. Mr. Macksey compares him with Scharnhorst, Von Moltke and Belisarius, but does much special pleading.

Airey Neave's recent book describes Goering's metamorphosis from drug addiction and decadence to defiance and near-dignity at Nuremberg. Mr. Macksey claims that it was Kesselring who stiffened Goering's backbone.

Kesselring died in 1960, a man who "came as near as anybody to solving the dilemma of survival in resistance to Hitler without fatally sacrificing integrity." The words "in resistance to" and "integrity" seem ill-chosen. But survive he did, in command to the end. The long Italian retreat never became a rout.

E. D. D.

"DARDANELLES PATROL" Peter Shankland and Anthony Hunter, Mayflower, Granada. 75p. Paperback.

In 1914 the Allies, having blundered into war with Turkey, found their route through the Mediterranean to Russia blocked at the Dardanelles. To reopen communications British and French troops landed on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25th April 1915 with the intention of capturing the straits covering the sea passage to the Black Sea.

The landings were badly executed and valuable time was lost which the Turks used to reinforce their hard pressed defenders. The only railway linking the Turkish front with Constantinople was a single line track and so most of their men and supplies were carried by ship across the 110 mile Sea of Marmara. To sever this link Allied submarines tried to enter the Dardanelles, a 35 mile long channel, only ¾ mile wide at places, which was swept by strong tides and defended by minefields and shore based guns.

"Dardanelles Patrol" tells the story of E.11, a British submarine commanded by Lieut-Commander Martin Nasmith, which was ordered into the straits after four others had been lost in the attempt.

Nasmith made most detailed preparations for his mission including a survey by air in a seaplane operated by the Royal Naval Air Service. He was especially interested in minefields which it was believed had trapped his predecessors.

The journey through the straits was a hair raising affair which took 12 hours, during which they scraped against mine moorings, barely moved underwater against the strong tides and were uncertain of their position in the narrow channel because of the danger of surfacing to get navigational bearings. In the final stages they were very short of fresh air and gasped in the oppressive heat and stifling atmosphere. Their clothes were soaked with sweat, and moisture condensed and dripped down the steelwork of the submarine's interior. Mingled with the all prevading smell of oil was the sour stench from the batteries.

Once into the Sea of Marmara Nasmith signalled his success and commenced action against Turkish shipping, moving eastward all the while. At 0500 on 23rd May 1915 through his periscope he sighted the gleaming minarets of Constantinople, the first enemy to do so for 500 years.

"Dardanelles Patrol" is a timely reminder that World War One was not all "blood and guts on the Somme" but fought on many fronts and not all on land. At sea it gave men of courage and enterprise an opportunity to show their skills. Lieut-Commander Nasmith VC, was one of them.

Frank Forde

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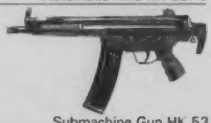

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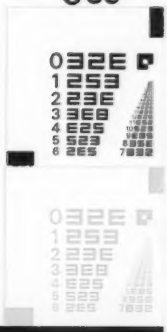
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